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Federation priorities page 11

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## Operation Promise brings Falas Mura to Israel

By Barbara Crook

(ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia) – We huddle in silence on the roadside, the darkness broken only by a dim streetlight and the wandering flashlights of the armed guards from the nearby Israeli Embassy.

In the distance, we catch a glimpse of a figure walking towards us, the head of a solemn and uncannily silent procession that includes babes in arms as well as elders stooped over canes. At a pre-determined point, the group begins to split, the ritual series of multiple goodbye kisses is exchanged, and those who must stay behind fade into the darkness.

For the 10 Ethiopian families who will travel with us to Israel tonight, this is the end of a journey that began years earlier and thrust them into city life, cramped and filthy living conditions and the endless bureaucracy of awaiting permission to make aliyah.

They will travel another 2,000 figurative years on the four-and-a-

half-hour flight to Tel Aviv, exchanging the familiarity of earth-floored, dung-walled hovels for the high-tech glare of Ben Gurion Airport and the cinder-block walls of the absorption centres where they will spend their first year or two in Israel.

But the toughest journey is still ahead, when they will struggle with literacy, language, unemployment, racism and culture shock – albeit in the land of their dreams.

"I am astounded by their willingness to take the leap into something that is so removed from their experiences," commented Gerry Fisher, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Hamilton.

"They are the true Zionists, the people who are going on that plane."

Fisher, Mitchell Bellman, Jack Silverstein, Ron Prehogan and I were part of a group of 20 Canadian Jewish community leaders and professionals participating in the first national leadership mission to Ethiopia and Israel in February,



The school in Gondar, Ethiopia, accommodates 2,100 children in three shifts.

(Photo: Brad Fox)

organized by UJA Federations Canada and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Our whirlwind visit gave us a glimpse into the lives of the more than 15,000 Ethiopians of Jewish descent waiting to make aliyah to Israel, and allowed us to see firsthand the programs – funded in part by our annual UJA Federation campaigns – that improve the quality of life for those waiting to emigrate.

We also revisited the array of programs in Israel that help these new immigrants integrate into Israeli society.

"We really had to go [to Ethiopia] to appreciate what we've seen on previous missions to Israel," said Bellman. "You really

get a sense of how miraculous it is – and of what a huge venture it is once they get to Israel."

Operations Moses and Solomon brought thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel in the 1980s and 1990s. But thousands more Ethiopians of Jewish descent, called Falas (pronounced "Falash") Mura, are waiting to start new lives in Israel.

Now we're into Operation Promise, a \$160 million (US) initiative by North American Jewry to boost efforts to bring the remaining Ethiopians of Jewish descent to Israel, to improve the services for those still waiting and to advance the educational and social programs for the Ethiopian Israelis in Israel. (Operation Promise will also

improve services to youth and elderly in the Former Soviet Union).

Nominally Christian, the Falas Mura are descended from Jews who were converted by Christian missionaries in the late 19th and early 20th centuries – often under duress. The government of Israel and the Chief Rabbinate decided in 1995 that those who can trace a maternal connection to Judaism should be allowed to come to Israel, where they undergo religious training and formal Orthodox conversions.

Since then, thousands of Falas Mura have left their homes, cattle and lives of subsistence farming to flock to the national capital of Addis Ababa and the provincial

(Continued on page 2)



Tallis weaver at work in Gondar.

(Photo: Barbara Crook)

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## Operation Promise

(Continued from page 1)  
capital of Gondar, awaiting permission to emigrate to Israel.

But the absence of official written records and birth certificates means it can take years to establish eligibility for aliyah. And Israel's current quota of accepting only 300 Falas Mura a month means that the waiting process is long and often brutal.

We were appalled to meet an entire family who have lived for nine years in an eight-by-10 mud-floored hut without running water or proper sewage facilities - and who still don't know if they will be eligible to emigrate.

Life in the city has meant increased exposure to a host of diseases, including AIDS and tuberculosis. Tali, a lovely Ethiopian-Israeli in her late teens, came back to Addis to claim her four-year-old nephew, who lost both parents to AIDS, and a girl of about six with no apparent living relatives. Both chil-

dren are to be raised by Tali's mother in Israel.

Health risks are not the only consequence of the waiting game. Until these refugees are accepted into the aliyah track, they have little access to education, and remain trapped in illiteracy.

But, for every sobering situation and statistic, there were moments of joy and awe. In Addis Ababa, Dr. Rick Hodes runs a medical clinic for the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which has dramatically improved the quality of life and longevity prospects for the Falas Mura.

In Ethiopia as a whole, the overall death rate is 20 per thousand people per year, compared to eight per thousand per year in the US and six per thousand per year in Israel. But the Falas Mura population in the JDC's care has a death rate of less than six per thousand per year.

Outside of his official responsibilities, Dr. Hodes shares his home with 12



Barbara Crook with Ethiopian children as they wait in the Addis Ababa airport for their flight to Israel.

Ethiopians, including several children he has formally adopted so they can receive spinal surgery in the US.

The school in Gondar accommodates 2,100 children in three shifts. Children learn English, Amharic (the main Ethiopian language), Hebrew and math. In our

honour, an entire shift of 700 kids marched out to serenade us with *Hatikvah* and *Am Israel Chai*.

Also in Gondar, the JDC runs a remarkably efficient feeding centre where children under six, pregnant women and nursing mothers receive two nutritious meals a day.

To see smiling faces and chubby cheeks in a land of poverty was a joy to behold - especially when we learned more about the alternative.

"Because this is an elder-driven culture, whatever food is available traditionally goes to the adults first," explained Micha Feldman, one of the

key architects of the 1991 Operation Solomon 36-hour non-stop airlift of 14,324 Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Feldman has devoted the last 20 years of his life to Ethiopian Jewry.

"If we can reach the mothers and children early with nutritious food, we are protecting the next generation."

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Canadian Jewish community leaders with the Falas Mura in Gondar. (Photo: Brad Fox)

## Falas Mura

- 'We are one big family,' page 6.
- Next issue:  
Falas Mura begin  
a new life in Israel

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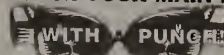
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# OTC in full Blum

Give them cholent ... they will come!

Yes, the enticement of good cholent after Shabbat services is just one of many innovative approaches used to attract Ottawa's Jewish community to the Ottawa Torah Center Chabad (OTC).

The cholent notwithstanding, OTC's greatest asset is Rabbi Menachem Mendel Blum himself.

"When people see my long beard and yarmulke, understandably they have a preconceived idea about who I am," says Rabbi Blum. "I would like them to see beyond this."

This type of thinking, combined with a fervent belief in "accepting and loving people unconditionally, regardless of what level they are on," has taken Rabbi Blum many places in his journey to fulfill his life goals.

Paris, France; Sydney, Australia; Manchester, England; Moldova, Russia are just some of the stops along Rabbi Blum's travels that eventually brought him to Ottawa.

"My dream was always to get involved in outreach with unaffiliated Jews," says Rabbi Blum.

While studying at a Yeshiva in New York, Rabbi Blum's inspiration was the Lubavitcher Rebbe who imparted to him the need to venture into communities to learn and teach. And venture he did.

In 1991, Rabbi Blum went to Moldova Kishinev to run a summer camp with 120 kids between the ages of six and 18.

"These kids knew only that they were Jewish, but had no understanding of what that meant," says Rabbi Blum. With an interpreter in tow, Rabbi Blum ran an eight-week crash course in Judaism.

At the request of many campers' parents, and with the aid of a mohel, Rabbi Blum presided over 40 circumcisions with all participants receiving a proper Hebrew name. A celebratory banquet was held once all the rituals were complete.

"It was a very emotional and extremely rewarding experience," says Rabbi Blum. "With very little in Moldova at that time, I felt I had helped rekindle their Jewish spirit. Outreach became my passion."

After finishing rabbinical school, Rabbi Blum taught in Brooklyn for a year and a half and then began to look for a small but developing Jewish community to pursue his passion. He and his wife Dina moved to Ottawa in 1997 and established the OTC.

He wanted to create a "social" centre that provided Jewish activities geared to young families living in the greater Nepean and Kanata areas. Initially operating out of his Barrhaven home, kosher cooking, BBQs, sushi nights and Chanukah parties were just some of the programs offered. Dina runs the Bat Mitzvah Club and Alef Bet Discovery, co-ordinates many of the activities and makes the infamous cholent!

"Whatever it took to get people out," says Rabbi Blum. "Regardless of background, commitment, affiliation or knowledge, OTC strives to offer a variety of interesting programs geared to all Jews."

Advertising in local community papers brought 30 people from all

over Nepean and Kanata to OTC's first Jewish High Holiday service held in a meeting room at the Walter Baker Sports Centre.

"It was structured as a user friendly service with prayers read in English," says Rabbi Blum.

People obviously liked what they saw and heard. These infrequent get-togethers soon became monthly Shabbat services (with cholent).

As the number of participants at OTC increased, so did requests from the extended community. Rabbi Blum's hands-on havdallah candle-making, shofar carving, mezuzah and Kashrut workshops are in great demand.

It would be fair to say that OTC is in full "bloom."

Monthly Shabbat services have become weekly services providing more opportunities for Rabbi Blum to share the joy of being Jewish.

Two years ago, OTC moved to a storefront in Barrhaven and it now boasts 70 family participants. His goal remains steadfast: "To reach out to the unaffiliated and encourage more young families to become involved in Jewish life."

"Seeing that I am actually making a difference in the community and getting encouragement from the community keeps me going," says Rabbi Blum.

Clem Srour has lived in Barrhaven for 17 years and felt that there was no Jewish presence or focal point in that neighbourhood until Rabbi Blum arrived.

Srour and his daughter, who was eight at the time, went to one of Rabbi Blum's monthly Shabbat services held at his house.

"We loved it," says Srour. "Even though Shabbat services were in the rabbi's living room it felt like a synagogue and emanated such warmth. It was unlike any Shabbat service I had experienced."

Rabbi Blum recognizes only too well that this up-and-coming younger generation is different.

"This post-Holocaust generation is not connected to Judaism," he says. "The key is to find a way to reawaken that spark. Today's kids and families have so many other extracurricular involvements that sometimes they lose touch with their roots. If we can make Judaism exciting and show the beauty and relevance of it, then it will leave an impact, and have a ripple effect."

Today, OTC is a going concern with a varied roster of programs from Holocaust education, to a Jewish Learning Institute program called *The Kabbalah of Time*, to an upcoming Purim extravaganza called *My Big Fat Greek Purim*.

As OTC continues to thrive, Rabbi Blum's dreams continue to evolve. His sights are now set on building a Jewish Outreach Centre in Barrhaven over the next couple of years. Judging by his track record, he may be one savoury cholent away from fulfilling this goal.

OTC is an agency of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. To find out more about what OTC offers, please call B23-0866 or log on to [www.OttawaTorahCenter.com](http://www.OttawaTorahCenter.com).



Rabbi Menachem Blum makes matzah with eager pupil.



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Sandra Granatstein  
President



Respecting the Eldery. Lodge residents with Hillel Academy Grade 4 students

## Bringing together young and old

By Ariel Vered  
The Ottawa Jewish community thrives on building bridges of communication between generations.

On February 16, the Hillel Academy Grade Four classes and residents of Hillel Lodge came together to celebrate an intergenerational program that nurtured familiarity and bonding within the Ottawa Jewish Community Campus.

Hillel Academy teachers Ruth Lebovich and Rachel Kugler and Hillel Lodge's Director of Recreation Mari-

lyn Adler organized the project for the Grade 4 section on "Ve Hadarta Pnei Zaken – Respecting the elderly."

The Grade 4 classes visited Hillel Lodge for the culmination of the project. Each pair of students presented their project of a resident's life story.

The children thanked their new friends for sharing their life stories and spoke of the enjoyable time they had.

One of the groups said, "At first we were nervous. But we found out we had a

lot in common."

The residents exhibited a similar delight in the students' attentions. Throughout the ceremony, they eagerly looked through the projects that chronicled their lives.

(Continued on page 17)

### Allan Taylor

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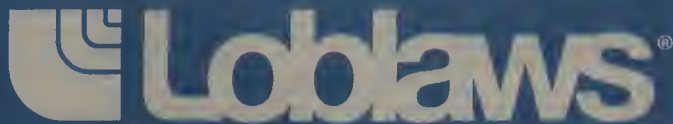
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## Lesson from Ethiopian trip: 'we are one big family'

It is difficult to imagine people living in the conditions our group witnessed in Ethiopia. The fact that these people included Jews made it all the more personal.

We walked through shantytowns where the stench of open sewage was overpowering, saw families of six living in a hut the size of three beds and watched as, seemingly, the entire population walked the streets day and night because there was simply nothing better to do and nowhere else to go. We learned that the average family income is \$100 per year. Hopelessness and despair were everywhere, surrounding us.

However, within the darkness, we saw some light. Our group leader was a man by the name of Micha Feldman, an Israeli who has been more responsible than any other for the airlifting over the past 20 years of some 100,000 Ethiopian Jews and Falash Mura to the State of Israel.

From the time we boarded the plane from Tel Aviv to Addis Ababa, it was clear that Micha was someone very special. He seemed to know everyone – but knowing wasn't enough. Every black person with whom he came in contact he engaged in banter or in meaningful conversation, and the contact always ended in hugs, kisses and a warm cup of the hand by Micha behind the other person's head.

One day, there will surely be a book written and a movie made about this man.

We visited a compound in Gondar where Jewish life has thrived. The Falash Mura abandon their homes to come to this compound with the hope that, one day, they would be privileged enough to make aliyah to Israel. In the meantime, 3,000 of them are fed twice per day and clothed. Their



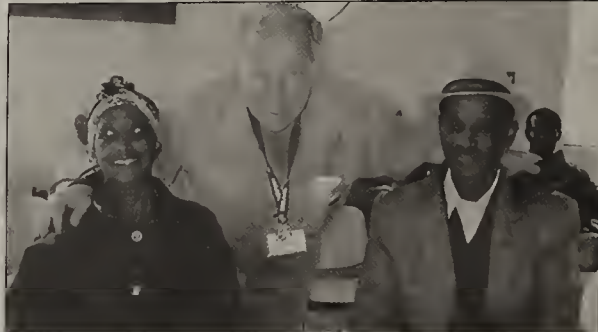
### Federation Report

Ron Prehogan  
Chair

children receive an education and they work as blacksmiths and tallis weavers. There is a synagogue and a library and adult Jewish education classes filled to capacity. There are children doing gymnastics and honing their natural athletic skills. All of this is funded by the State of Israel and the world Jewish community.

After two days in Ethiopia, the most amazing part of the journey was about to begin. On our plane-ride back to Tel Aviv, we were accompanied by 55 Ethiopians making aliyah and we were allowed to observe every moment of their experience – from the time we saw them walk with their worldly possessions on their backs to the Israeli Embassy in Addis, to the moments after they moved into their apartments on the outskirts of Jerusalem. We saw them say good bye to relatives in Ethiopia and hello to relatives at Ben Gurion Airport. We were with them in the Ministry of Absorption room at the airport where they got their papers and every person is greeted with a sign saying "Welcome Home." We saw the old people crying and the young ones looking completely stunned by the experience.

These people were, in effect, travelling 2,000 years in time – they were coming from conditions as in biblical times to one of the most advanced countries in the modern



Micha Feldman, one of the leaders of Operation Solomon (airlift of 14,000 Jews in 1991) with two Israeli Ethiopians who recognized him at the airport in Gondar. They were home for a funeral.  
(Photo: Barbara Crook)

world. For the old people, there would be little hope of accomplishing anything – they would have trouble learning Hebrew, would likely not be able to find employment and would live the rest of their lives in a world that would be completely foreign to them.

For the young, however, there would be opportunity and hope. Once back in Israel, we visited a law school for Ethiopians and Haredi.

In 1985 and 1991, there were major airlifts of Ethiopian Jews and Falash Mura to the State of Israel – the first-ever recorded instances of black people from Africa being exported to freedom rather than slavery. The aliyah has continued ever since, but at a pace that needs to be accelerated – and it will, thanks to the commitment made in 2005 first by Ariel Sharon and then by the worldwide Jewish community.

There are images from this trip that will never leave me, but one stands out more than any other. At Ben Gurion airport, as we were all leaving to get on our buses, I watched as a little three-year-old black boy, dressed in a nice white cotton sweater and holding an Israeli flag, was taken by the hand by his mother to the bus.

In that one moment, I saw the hopes and dreams of not just that family but of the entire Jewish people. We really are just one big family that supports each other. That to me is the essence of Jewish peoplehood – no matter where we live in the world, we are one and we look after each other.

I am grateful for what I have and feel very fortunate to be counted among our people. The recent journey to Ethiopia and Israel was a trip of a lifetime, an experience I know will change me forever.

## Joy an integral part of our tradition

The Mishnah teaches, "When [the month of] Adar enters, we increase joy."

The joy of Purim is not restricted to the holiday itself, but is extended to the entire month. Nor is Purim the only time of happiness in our calendar. *Sinhat Torah*, "The Rejoicing of the Law," is obviously another joyous moment during the year. The Torah commands us in regard to all of our major festivals, *v'samahta behagekha*, "you shall rejoice in your festival." Not surprisingly, the traditional greeting for these holidays is *Hag Sameyah*, "Happy Holiday!"

One would think that this obligation to rejoice, to enjoy and to celebrate the sacred occasions of the year would be an easy *mitzvah* to fulfill. Yet, somehow, happiness and joy do not come easily to us. We seem to have difficulty "letting our hair down" and rejoicing in our heritage.

Synagogues are filled to capacity on the *Yamim Nora'im* (not sad days, but certainly serious), yet far fewer show up to parade with *hulal* and *ethrog* on *Sukkot*. Quite rightly, we conscientiously observe *Yahrzeit* and *Yizkor*, but how often do we show up just to be part of a *minyán*? Even when we



### From the pulpit

Rabbi  
Charles S. Popky  
Agudath Israel

consider our history, we often emphasize the sufferings and degradations rather than our magnificent accomplishments and achievements.

I do not mean to belittle the importance of solemn occasions in our tradition, be they private or public. I do, however, want to emphasize that to be a seriously committed Jew one need not always be serious. We must learn to appreciate the *simhah shel mitzvah*, the joy of the commandments.

From the beauty of a Shabbat meal to the peace of regular *dahvening*, from the celebration of our holidays to the warmth and satisfaction we feel through our acts of *tsedakah* and *gemiluth hasadim* ("acts of lovingkindness"), our tradition gives us many opportunities to experience joy and

happiness. Let us recognize that indeed joy is integral to our tradition.

"When [the month of] Adar enters, we increase joy." Let's start this Adar – and

continue throughout the year.

P.S. You can start by dressing up in costume and attending your synagogue's *Megillah* reading.

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## Temple Israel event supports Stephen Lewis Foundation

In his book, *Race Against Time*, the printed version of his CBC Radio Massey lectures, Stephen Lewis, UN secretary-general's special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, notes, "I have spent the last four years watching people die."

It is a job few of us would envy. And yet, despite witnessing the devastation of AIDS in Africa and the lack of action by governments in the West, Stephen Lewis refuses to give up. This passionate and determined humanitarian continues to mobilize the world in the fight against AIDS.

"The situation of people living and dying with AIDS in parts of Africa is so desperate that even the most basic help will bring solace and hope," he writes.

The Stephen Lewis Foundation is dedicated to supporting the lives of African women and children ravaged by the effects of AIDS. The foundation provides care for women who are suffering from AIDS, assists orphans and other children, supports the grandmothers of Africa who bury their children and raise their grandchildren, and helps men and women who live with AIDS and have openly declared their status.

Two years ago, well before the recent Massey lectures, the release of the book and the well-deserved media attention that followed, Temple Israel decided to hold a



### Editor

Barry Fishman

fundraiser in support of the Lewis foundation. Unfortunately, a last-minute scheduling conflict meant Lewis had to cancel.

The event, *An Evening with Stephen Lewis*, is rescheduled for Thursday, March 23.

"We always felt there was a connection between Temple Israel and his family," notes Rabbi Steven Garten.

Stephen Lewis's father David, former leader of the federal NDP is buried in Temple Israel's cemetery.

Supporting the work of Stephen Lewis is a natural choice because Temple Israel perceives one of its religious missions is to bring social justice to the world.

The Temple is involved in supporting many Jewish causes as well as those in the greater community, such as the Parkdale United Church Out of the Cold Program, Centre 454 Anglican Homeless Shelter and the interfaith social housing network.

"People in Temple hear the voice of the prophets as a mitzvah, a commandment ... 'Let justice well up as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream.' We hear these words as true commandments and we act upon them ... It is part of our understanding of our religious imperative. It is important to us," says the rabbi.

Not only is *An Evening with Stephen Lewis* an important event to support, it is also an example of how different faith groups can work together for the betterment of mankind.

When the Stephen Lewis Foundation suggested that Southminster United Church and Temple Israel join together in sponsoring the event, both faith communities quickly agreed. A committee representing both groups was set up and it was decided to hold the event in the much larger Southminster United Church.

The only concern, according to Rabbi Garten, was the purpose of the event. Was it to be a fundraiser or more of an evening devoted to educating people about AIDS in Africa?

"People were struggling with how to raise as much money as possible and still make it accessible to people. In fairness to the Church that was what the real issue was," he says.

The rabbi notes that both groups "worked as hard as they could to find commonality."

It was decided to charge \$20 and both organizations held back a number of tickets to offer to people who could not afford the cost to attend.

Lana Fawcett Helman is a member of the Temple Israel committee.

"As an interfaith project, it has been very good to be able to work side by side with them to achieve this goal. They also had brought in Roméo Dallaire, so they are very experienced in knowing what needs to be done for the event and how best to organize. It has been a great experience working with them."

Fawcett Helman is pleased *An Evening with Stephen Lewis* is practically sold out. If the numbers warrant, there is a possibility of setting up a video link in the church's social hall so more people can attend this very special event. Southminster United Church is located at 15 Aylmer Avenue (at Bank Street). Doors open at 6:45 pm.

It is an event not to be missed. To hear this remarkable orator and learn what you can do to fight the scourge of AIDS in Africa, purchase your ticket by contacting Temple Israel (224-1802). To learn more about the Stephen Lewis Foundation, visit [www.stephenlewisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org).

## Funny? Offensive? It sounds so familiar

Free speech ... Satire ... Religious sensibilities ... They all dwell in cultural minefields, to be sure.

Exhibit A: No, not the Danish cartoons. We'll get to those further down.

Exhibit A is British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen.

Cohen's calling card is his alter ego Ali G, an extraordinarily idiotic white guy from the London suburbs who fancies himself a black rapper. But another of the comic's satiric creations – Borat Sagdiyev, a casually racist, misogynistic, crude and anti-Semitic Kazakhstani TV reporter – has managed to raise some interesting hackles.

On HBO's "Da Ali G Show," Cohen – disguised as one of several fictional characters – interacts with unsuspecting real people. In one segment, Borat travelled to Tucson and sings a Western tune called "In My Country There is Problem" to a bar full of cowboy-hatted Arizonans.

He prompts his audience to sing along with the song's chorus: "Throw the Jew down the well, so my country can be free. You must grab him by his horns, then we have a big party." The bar patrons respond with full-throated enthusiasm.

Funny? Offensive? A big plate of offense with a side order of funny?

I'll admit my own bias: I thought it was hilarious. (Undoubtedly funnier on-screen than in my second-hand description here.)

Not everyone shares my sense of



Alan Echenberg

humour. Take, for example, the Anti-Defamation League. After the initial broadcast of Borat's song, the ADL sent Cohen an admonishment:

"... While we understand this scene was an attempt to show how easily a group of ordinary people can be encouraged to join in an anti-Semitic chorus," the organization wrote, "we are concerned that the irony may have been lost on some of your audience – or worse, that some of your viewers may have simply accepted Borat's statements about Jews at face value ..."

Well, that's the way irony often goes, doesn't it? Whatever you think of the talent of Sacha Baron Cohen – who happens to be Jewish – his provocative comedy is about exposing and satirizing prejudice rather than endorsing it. Should he be held responsible for viewers missing the point and taking over-the-top comments too literally?

Incidentally, Cohen is an equal-opportunity offense-monger. The character of Borat also got a rise out of the government of Kazakhstan. The Kazakhstani went a step

further than the ADL. They censored a Borat website and threatened Cohen with legal action, to which the comedian

responded on video, as Borat: "... I'd like to state I have no connection with Mr. Cohen and fully support my government's decision to sue this Jew ..."

Outrage over provocative humour ... Squabbles over censorship ... It sounds so familiar.

The international controversy over the infamous Danish Mohammed cartoons demonstrates far more dramatically that when ironic commentary meets offended sensibility, the results can prove volatile. Dangerous, even.

In the case of those cartoons, "ironic commentary" probably overstates things. None of the cartoons is particularly amusing, the most contentious of them seem more focused on blunt ridicule than satire, and most are sophomoric.

The violent reaction to the cartoons in the most authoritarian of countries has been repulsive and scary. Within Canada, the controversy has been more civilized, centring on debates over censorship and self-censorship: Whether or not media should reproduce the cartoons and what consequences – if any – they should face if they do.

My own view? In an open society such as ours, the more controversial the material, the more important it becomes to shine as

bright a light on it as possible. It's the only way we can come to an honest conclusion about its value ... or lack thereof.

More worthy than its correspondence with Sacha Baron Cohen, the Anti-Defamation League shines just such a light on the flip side of the cartoon controversy: The vile anti-Semitic cartoons that appear regularly in media throughout the Muslim world. You can see many examples in all their sordidness on the ADL website.

A much different website has a Cohenesque take on the related – and sadly predictable – reaction of one newspaper to the Danish controversy.

When a large Iranian paper announced a Holocaust cartoon contest, two Israeli comic-book artists came up with a shrewdly satiric response: An anti-Semitic cartoon contest open to Jews only.

"We'll show the world we can do the best, sharpest, most offensive Jew hating cartoons ever published!" their press release announced. "No Iranian will beat us on our home turf!"

You can see some entries on their website ([www.boonka.org](http://www.boonka.org)). My favourite is a cartoon of Moses holding up a "Special Secret 11th Commandment: p.s. don't forget to control the media."

Borat would be proud.

Alan Echenberg is the *Parliament Hill* bureau chief for Studio 2, *TVOntario's* nightly current affairs program.



## Employment Opportunity President/Executive Director Soloway Jewish Community Centre

The Soloway Jewish Community Centre of Ottawa is looking for a President/Executive Director to lead the JCC into the future and to oversee the operations of a full service program and facility with an operating budget of almost \$4 million.

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The candidate would ideally have seven to ten years experience as a senior executive in a JCC or similar community organization with a strong record of strategic goal development and achievement, experience in fund and program development, and experience with committee, board and staff development. A Master's degree in administration or the human services field is preferred.

Interested applicants should contact Arnie Sohinki, Vice President for Community Services at JCC Association ([arnie@jcca.org](mailto:arnie@jcca.org)) in order to receive a personnel profile that must be completed and forwarded along with salary requirements no later than March 17, 2006.

For more information about the Soloway JCC go to [www.jccottawa.com](http://www.jccottawa.com)



## SJCC holds annual AGM: new chair announced

By Ariel Vered

The annual general meeting of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, held on Thursday, February 16, marked the 53rd anniversary of the JCC.

The meeting's themes were commitment, contribution and volunteers.

Rabbi Menachem Blum gave the D'var Torah for Parshat Yitro, named after Moses' father-in-law, who influences the way in which Moses leads the people of Israel. Yitro teaches us to "see our community and what we can contribute; we should be giving of our time and our skills," said Rabbi Blum.

Bruria Cooperman addressed the crowd as outgoing chair of the board, advocating the need for and value of volunteerism: "It's about feeling at home, it's about a sense of belonging."

Accepting the Ben Karp Soloway JCC Volunteer Service Award, Lawrence Silber, immediate past chair of the board, remarked, "As members of the JCC, we are in small part responsible for its direction."

Arnie Vered, the incoming chair of the board, expressed enthusiasm for the work ahead "because we have a dedicated hard working staff, a fantastic facility, remarkable committed volunteers, a highly involved membership, a phenomenal



Outgoing SJCC Chair of the Board, Bruria Cooperman, is presented with a gift by Lawrence Silber.

(Photo: Peter Waiser)

Jewish community and we have a great Federation."

The highlight of the evening was a video presentation of highlights from the 2004-2005 year, accompanied by a Hebrew version of Louis Armstrong's *What a Wonderful World*.

Soon-to-retire SJCC President and COO Linda Kernzner followed with a summary of the year's highlights, emphasizing the need to focus on thinking creatively in order to overcome the SJCC's main problems – that of member-

ship sales and accumulated deficit.

The meeting also included the presentation of the financial overview for the SJCC for the year ending August 31, 2005 by Bruce Fischer, the outgoing SJCC treasurer; the awarding of the Grossman-Klein Family Teen Leadership Award to Jennifer Hadad and Asher Farber for their examples of leadership and contribution to the community; and the Staff Service Awards, awarded to staff who have reached employment milestones.

## Pirkei Avot: the wisdom of our sages

Avos 4:2 – Ben Azzai says: Run to perform even a "minor" Mitzvah, and flee from sin; for one Mitzvah leads to another Mitzvah, and one sin leads to another sin; for the consequence of a Mitzvah is a Mitzvah and the consequence of a sin is a sin.

Sometimes we have a tendency to think that we act in a vacuum. What we do now will not affect how we behave tomorrow. After all, we all have free choice and, although I choose to act in a certain way today, tomorrow I can change any time I want. (This is similar to the diet starts tomorrow.)

Ben Azzai is telling us that although it is true that you have free will, don't be so sure that tomorrow it will be so easy to change.

This can work on two levels. The first level is that a person falls into a natural pattern of behaviour. When I do good actions, it becomes natural for me to do good actions;

if I do bad things, then that becomes my natural behaviour after a while.

The second level is that HaShem takes a person in the direction he/she chooses to go. The Talmud tells us that one who seeks purity will be aided from above; one who seeks impurity will be allowed to find opportunities to do so. When I perform a mitzvah, HaShem makes it easier for me to perform a mitzvah in the future; if I perform a sin, HaShem will not put up any obstacles to prevent me from choosing to sin again. When given the opportunity to do an easy mitzvah, take advantage, because it will lead to the opportunity to perform many more.

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# Israeli constitutional expert advocates religious pluralism

By Ariel Vered

"It is a dilemma of every democratic Jew and Israeli who wants a constitution on the one hand and the preservation of freedoms on the other," said Naomi Chazan.

"The only way to make Israel a country where all Jews feel comfortable is to protect religious freedom in a constitution."

As the current chair of HEMDAT, the Council for Freedom of Religion in Israel, Chazan is active in promoting religious pluralism and full equality of all streams of Judaism. Her recent Agudath Israel lecture on Israel's proposed constitution and its implications for religious pluralism highlighted the shortcomings of the current drafts and Israel's alternative options.

Since gaining independence in 1948, Israel has functioned without a constitution. Chazan noted, "Most independent countries wrote a constitution before they gained independence. Israel... was busy with something else at the time."

The greatest obstacle has been the ultra-Orthodox, who view the Torah as the only valid 'constitution.' To these parties, a formal constitution is tantamount to profanity.

The call for an Israeli constitution has peaked recently as the solution to Israel's problems, which include political corruption, violence, social injustice and inequity and governmental inefficiency.

Israel's political instability has manifested in seven governments, five elections and four prime ministers in the last 10 years. Pundits believe a constitution will solve these issues. The Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) and the Knes-



Naomi Chazan

set's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee have formulated draft constitutions in response to renewed public interest.

However, Chazan warned against using simple answers to solve complex problems.

Chazan is a former three-term member of the Knesset for the Meretz party. During her 11 years in the Knesset, she acted as deputy speaker, chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and member of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and served on many civil rights and social welfare committees.

Chazan served on the IDI drafting committee, but does not support the recently released draft constitution.

"It has real problems with issues of religious freedom," she said.

In fact, many members of the drafting committee have asked for their names to be removed, Chazan included. One reason is the absence of a provision for the freedom of and from religion.

The two proposed constitutions are evasive in their treatment of religious freedom. While the IDI draft does address certain rights including freedom of and from religion, it also contains a proviso that bestows consti-

tutional weight on the entire document, except for matters of religion and state.

Essentially, said Chazan, "what is given with one hand is taken away by the other."

The Knesset draft does not even address the issue of religion and state.

In the place of a constitution, Israel has codified 11 Basic Laws that exercise priority over regular laws.

"Even though we don't have a constitution," said Chazan, "we do - it is just not a complete one."

The first nine Basic Laws, passed between 1958 and 1988, dealt only with structural issues.

In 1992, two human rights laws were passed: Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty and Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation. The Supreme Court has actively interpreted Israel's laws in terms of these two laws.

Israel faces a quandary of

how to proceed on the issue of a constitution.

Chazan presented four options: Israel can pass one of the proposed constitutions, despite its flaws, and resolve to improve it later on; Israel can go on functioning as it has been for its 57 years of existence with its Basic Laws and court rulings; Israel can find another way in which to protect religious freedom and pluralism, an inversion of Canada's not-withstanding clause, wherein religious freedom is protected and would require those opposed to fight for the denial of those freedoms; or, finally, Israel can deal with each of its problems individually, abandoning the expectation that a constitution would solve Israel's problems.

Instead of leaving her audience with an answer, Chazan concluded with a question: What would you do with this dilemma?

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Miriam Lerson-Hameiri (right), principal of Ottawa Modern Jewish School, with Margo Blostein, Ottawa co-ordinator JNF, and Grade 2 students.

## OMJS students 'grow' trees one leaf at a time

Not only did the JNF Ottawa 2006 Tu B'Shevat Telethon and Mop Up maintain the record for number of trees sold at an annual telethon ('thanks' Chair Lori Loeb), but JNF Ottawa coffers are getting a Tu B'Shevat-related boost from an unexpected source: Ottawa Modern Jewish School.

OMJS students are learning firsthand about Tu B'Shevat, JNF and tzedakah by 'growing' a tree one individually purchased leaf at a time. At the end of this school year, when the branches are full, OMJS will hand over the proceeds of the project to JNF.

"The idea was born out of the fact that we were preparing for teaching and celebrating Tu B'Shevat," explains OMJS Principal Miriam Lerson-Hameiri. "We wanted to make it a meaningful experience for the students. At OMJS, our goal is to make the kids feel they are not only part of the OMJS family, but also part of the Ottawa Jewish community family and the larger Jewish family beyond."

"We decided to create a tree - an *etz chaim* - on the door of the principal's office and have the children bring it to maturity with leaves. The leaves are made of cardboard and cost 25 cents each. The children purchase their leaves at the office, write their names on the leaf and affix it to the tree."

"We're delighted at how the idea has taken off," says Lerson-Hameiri. "It's going to be a pretty bountiful tree by the end of the year. We'll use the occasion of our year-end celebration to make our very special presentation to JNF."

Yasher Koach, OMJS!

Jennifer Dickson, CM, RA, artist/lecturer, speaks on "Jacob Epstein: The Creative Rebel" on Wednesday, April 5, 7:00 pm, Cadioux Auditorium, Sussex Drive, Foreign Affairs-Lester B. Pearson Building. Admission: \$18 (one tree). To reserve, call the JNF Ottawa office, 798-2411.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (798-2411).



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## Two Doctor Dovers honoured at University of Ottawa

By Cynthia Nyman Engel  
Two distinguished Doctors Dover were singled out for special recognition recently.

Retired Ottawa surgeon Dr. Mark Dover, class of 1955, and Boston dermatologist Dr. Jeffrey Dover, class of 1981, were the recipients of University of Ottawa Medical Alumni Association Awards for Professionalism.

Recipients of the coveted award, which recognizes outstanding contributions by an alumnus in their chosen field, are nominated by their peers. The presentations to father and son took place at Dr. Mark Dover's 50th Class

Reunion in late October.

Or rather, the presentation to Dr. Mark took place as planned. Dr. Jeffrey's presence, however, was thwarted by an over-zealous airline employee at the Boston airport.

"Air Canada had wanted us to be at the airport 90 minutes before the flight," explains Jeffrey, who was making the trip to Ottawa with his family in tow.

"We were just a few minutes late, but they wouldn't let us check in. I tried – in vain – to explain why it was so very important for me to get to Ottawa, but they wouldn't let us board."

When all else fails, turn to e-mail, of course.

"I went home, typed out the speech that was in my head and e-mailed it to my sister Karen," he says, adding with a chuckle, "She probably gave it much better than I could have."

Happily, Dr. Jeffrey arrived in time to enjoy the remainder of the Homecoming Weekend festivities.

Ottawa native Mark Dover, 78, enjoyed a distinguished 35-year career as a surgeon.

"All on call, all the time," he says – a fact which frequently wreaked havoc on his and wife Anita's social plans. "But," he adds, "always exciting, always a challenge."

Dr. Mark took his undergraduate degree at Queen's University and went on to study medicine at the University of Ottawa.

"I always wanted to do surgery," and he says with a smile, "I'm often called on to carve even when we're invited somewhere."

The gentle physician who did his general surgery resi-



Dr. Mark Dover (left) and son Dr. Jeffrey Dover celebrate receiving the University of Ottawa's Medical Alumni Association Award for Professionalism.

dency at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital from 1955 to 59 spent the last 10 years of his career as chief of general surgery at the University of Ottawa. In the intervening years, he assembled a curriculum vitae filled with prestigious academic appointments, received numerous honours and awards and served on countless commit-

tees. He has lectured extensively and been published.

"Becoming the chief of surgery was a high point in my life," he says.

Dr. Jeffrey, 48, graduated as the silver medallist from the University of Ottawa in 1981. He received his dermatology training at the University of Toronto, followed by research fellowships in

London, England, and the Massachusetts General Hospital of Harvard Medical School. He is associate clinical professor of dermatology at Yale University School of Medicine, has authored over 300 scientific publications and has co-authored and edited 17 textbooks.

Dr. Jeffrey has received many honours including repeated nominations for "teacher of the year" at Harvard Medical School as well as listings in the *Who's Who of American Medicine*, *Guide to Top Doctors* and *Woodward and White's The Best Doctors in America*. He recently received the prestigious Leon Goldman Award of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery. He has been invited regularly as a keynote lecturer to national and international meetings.

"I was pleased when Jeff decided to go into medicine despite my being a doctor," says Dr. Mark with a grin.

And father and son were delighted to be receiving honours together.

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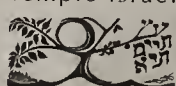
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## AJA 50+ provides learning opportunities

Members of AJA 50+ are discovering life after 50 provides many opportunities for life-long learning.

In May, a class will be organized for those seniors who are not totally comfortable with using computers to enable them to use e-mail and send attachments as well as to gain an ease with the technology.

A partnership has been developed with Connaught Public School on Gladstone Avenue. The school will give AJA 50+ the use of their computer lab and student tutors will assist

through the learning process.

A qualified instructor is being hired and four classes will be held – May 1, May 8, May 15 and May 29. Classes will be held from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm, and there is two-hour parking on Rosemount Avenue adjacent to the school.

Members who don't own a computer should not be discouraged from taking the course. The SJCC Greenberg Families Library owns several computers and they are available for use during library times.

Members can find out more about this exciting program when they receive the program guide in April.

Since registration is on May 1, 2006, members should register for this course with our registrar, Flo Morgan, before registration day. Anyone who is not yet a member of AJA can call registrar Rhoda Zaitlin (829-2634) to join.

Other exciting programs being planned for the spring include a brunch at the NAC in conjunction with CIOF, where Daphne Burt, manager of artistic planning and executive assistant to Pinchas Zukerman, will be speaking; a course in Moroccan cooking; lawn bowling; and Jill LaForty, music critic for the CBC.

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# Jewish Federation gets agency and community views on priorities

By Ruben Friedman,  
senior director  
of planning

The planning department of the Jewish Federation recently organized a meeting of close to 60 agency and community representatives to look at and make recommendations about the seven demographic challenges the Ottawa Jewish community faces, based on analyses of 2001 Census Canada statistics, carried out by Charles Shahar on behalf of the Federation and UIAFC Canada.

Chair of the Planning and Allocations Committee Allan Moscovitch identified the seven key challenges as Jewish education, outreach to the unaffiliated, greater need for immigration, developing a vision for how to support seniors as their numbers increase and the relative numbers of younger people shrink, how to address the participation of the Jewish poor, geographic dispersal of the Jewish population in Ottawa, and how to relate to other communities as the Jewish community shrinks in relative size and as the overall diversity of the Ottawa population increases.

The people attending

were divided into seven groups, each addressing what needs to be done to meet one of these challenges.

The recommendations from each group were then presented to the plenary, who were provided with seven red, blue and yellow circular stickers each.

Everyone could then indicate their seven top priorities for action by sticking the red dots next to them.

Seven second priorities for action were identified with blue dots and seven third priorities were identified with yellow dots. People could vote for actions in any area they wished.

There was general praise for the meeting and its effect of getting individuals from different areas thinking in broad community terms.

According to Moscovitch, "the meeting served as a town hall brainstorming on how to meet some key demographic challenges the community faces and provides some direct feedback on these to the Board of the Federation."

Mitchell Bellman, president and CEO of the Federation, noted the gathering represents the new bottom-

up approach the Federation was taking in setting community priorities.

"This meeting is one of a number of consultations through which the Federation will involve a broader cross-section of the community in setting longer-term community objectives and funding priorities," Bellman said.

However, there were some concerns that not all issues have been addressed.

Mark Palmer, executive director of Tamir, pointed out the necessity to examine the needs of the disabled and their families and it was also noted that the link between the Jews of Ottawa and Israel and with other Jewish communities around the world had not formed part of the discussion.

The Federation made a commitment to deal with these in a follow-up.

Some participants would have liked to have more time to review the material and to think about their vote.

Debbie Weiss, Federation member-at-large, commented, "While I appreciated the chance to discuss with others from a diversity of agencies what to do on a particular area, I think each issue merits a more serious examination and follow-up."

Rabbi Gary Kessler of Beth Shalom agreed on the value of broad community discussion, but was also concerned that people were being too rushed in their voting.

"I would have liked longer to look at the material and to consider my choices before voting on these very important issues."

Moscovitch stressed, "We will not end the process with this meeting. I hope that we will be able to organize some smaller working groups dealing with these results and the areas we did not get to cover tonight."

## Priority issues identified

The analysis of voting in the meeting suggests that those present attached the greatest priority to the following issues:

- Support to Jewish education including the system of student subsidies
- Outreach to the unaffiliated, especially to youth, the poor and intermarried families
- Co-ordination and integration, especially of immigration services
- Seniors housing other than in long-term care facilities
- The use of cultural programming and improved marketing of community programs to attract and involve wider audiences

For more complete results, contact Ruben Friedman, senior director of planning (rfriedman@jewishottawa.com).



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**NCSY's Jewish Teen Experience**

This picture was taken by Ben Shusterman, Grade 11 student, during the 2005 Community Mission to Israel. It was submitted to NCSY's Jewish Teen Expression (JTX), a creative arts competition for all Jewish teens in Ottawa. Teens entered Jewish-themed pieces into one of three categories: Creative Writing, Photography or Visual Art.

Please join the community on Sunday, March 26, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre for JTX Live, a display of all of the entries for this competition.

JTX Live will also have live music by local Jewish teens and some desserts.

For more information, please contact Bram Bregman (262-6279 or [bram@ncsyottawa.com](mailto:bram@ncsyottawa.com)), or check out [www.ncsyottawa.com](http://www.ncsyottawa.com).

## **YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATIONS 2006**

### **Community Event**

Monday, April 24, 2006  
7:00 pm  
Soloway JCC  
21 Nadolny Sachs Private

### **National Event**

Tuesday, April 25, 2006  
3:30 pm  
Parliament Hill

For more information, please call Rena at 798-4696 ext. 234

*remembering the past in order to change the future*





## A capella group to perform at Jewish Unity Live

By Lisa Vatch

On Monday, March 27, 2006, a cappella group Kol Zimra will perform at the Jewish Unity Live event at the Canadian Museum of Nature. The group gave a command performance at this year's White House Chanukah party.

The wide popularity of their a cappella, Shabbat-friendly combination of harmonious vocals and instrument-imitation has resulted in a full booking schedule for Kol Zimra at a variety of Jewish simchas and events across North America and Israel.

They have even been taking over the Bar Mitzvah and wedding circuit, replacing DJs and turntables with their lively, audience-interactive performances of both traditional Jewish songs and popular secular songs.

In Hebrew, *Kol* means voice, and *Zimra* means melody.

Kol Zimra was founded in 2000 by Alex Katz, who had previously sung with Beat'achon, another well-known Jewish a cappella group.

Jordan Gorfinkel, who founded Beat'achon and will be performing with Kol Zimra in Ottawa, describes Kol Zimra as a "band of voices" or "vocal orchestra" made up of a pool of 30 singers from a variety of Jewish backgrounds.

Specific members of Kol Zimra are personally selected for each event – those with the greatest strength as concert singers will be performing onstage at the Jewish



Members of Kol Zimra pose at a simcha

Unity Live event in Ottawa.

A cappella singing is the oldest form of Jewish music and has a long history in Jewish communities, from a cappella singers in the Temple 2,000 years ago to families singing around the Shabbat table today.

As the spiritual but modernized successors of that tradition, Kol Zimra, requiring no instruments or sound system, can be taken anywhere.

Gorfinkel said that Kol Zimra's performances "build bridges and bring Jewish people together through simcha" and so are especially relevant to an event uniting the Ottawa Jewish community.

The group "comes together to sing in harmony both literally and figuratively," said Gorfinkel, "as the ultimate mode to bring people together and to celebrate Judaism through music."

Kol Zimra performs songs in English, Hebrew and Yid-

dish spanning many different genres and styles, from Israeli music to liturgical songs; from Hassidic rock music to spiritual or folk tunes, and even familiar secular songs transposed into a Jewish setting.

Their engaging and energetic shows captivate audiences of all ages, get everyone singing along and truly have cross-over appeal. During a performance at the White House Chanukah candle-lighting ceremony in 2004, First Lady Laura Bush commented, "Wow, these guys are really good!"

Tickets are still available to catch Kol Zimra's performance at Jewish Unity Live, on March 27 at 7:30 pm, Canadian Museum of Nature; also featuring special guest speaker Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis. Tickets: \$36, students \$18. Call the JET office (798-9818, ext. 247 or email [jet@jecottawa.com](mailto:jet@jecottawa.com)).

## Kosher for Passover wine sale supports vast charity network

Na'amat Aviva Chapter's annual kosher for Passover wine sale features a large selection of wines and liqueurs from a variety of countries, such as Israel, Australia, Chile and others.

Na'amat Ottawa sends money to Israel to help support its vast network of social and educational services. Especially now, as a result of the many terrorist acts and

the deteriorating economic situation, the number of Israelis experiencing hardships is increasing greatly. Many people turn to Na'amat for help. Some of the services Na'amat funds are day care centres, high schools, single parent support services, legal aid centres and a facility for abused women.

Locally, Na'amat is involved in a School Supply

for Kids in Shelters project, where, in September, we supply packages to children living with their mothers in shelters for battered women.

The support of the community over the years has allowed us to continue with this project. If you are interested in being placed on our mailing list and purchasing wines, please call Deana Schil'dkraut (726-9595).

### Thank you ...

Arnon Corporation/Ron Engineering  
for helping to make the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Jewish National Fund  
Tu Bi'Shevat Telethon  
on Sunday, January 22, 2006  
a huge success.

Thank you  
to all who responded so generously  
to our outstanding volunteers... and especially to

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and to all our Patrons and Sponsors listed below

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This day would not be possible without these very special people:

Sam Ages, Jackie Barwin, Norm Barwin, Shira Benlolo, Rabbi and Mrs. Bulka, Robin Chernick and Norm Leckie, Lisa and Fred Cogan, Val Eisen, Jane and Martin Gordon, Gina Grant, Carol Greenberg, Rabbi Kessler, Jasmine Bradbury-Klyman, Joan and Russell Kronick, Edie Landau, Jessica Loeb, Lori Loeb, Merle Moses, Rochelle and Brian Pearl, Marlene and Hymie Reichstein, Sheldon Shaffer, Jill Stern, Simon Tapper

And to our "Sweeps" crew....

David Baker, Debbie Baylin, Alan Blostein, Amy Blostein, Val Eisen, Tracy Kronick, Mira Levine, Lawrence Tapper, Simon Tapper and Tara Wakter.



### Jewish National Fund of Ottawa

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## Top Jewish speaker coming to Ottawa

By Chani Bregman

In just a few short weeks, Ottawa will be honoured with the presence of Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis.

Listed as one of the 50 most influential Jews in America, and described as

the Jewish television evangelist, this dynamo and best-selling author will be speaking at Jewish Unity Live on Monday, March 27 at the Museum of Nature.

A descendant of a rabbinic dynasty, Rebbetzin

Jungreis can trace her family lineage to King David - no small feat. Prior to the Holocaust, there were 85 rabbis bearing the name Jungreis in Hungary. The Rebbetzin - whose maiden name is also her married name - spent her early childhood in Szeged, Hungary, where her father was the chief Orthodox rabbi.

She remembers when Nazis came to her home "with bayonets and gave us two minutes to grab our belongings."

She and her beloved father survived the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and, in 1947, moved to Brooklyn where her father practised as a rabbi.

It was there, in the United States, that she was reunited with her cousin Theodore Jungreis. He became a rabbi and she married him, keeping her name and gaining the title rebbetzin, the Yiddish

title of respect and endearment for a rabbi's wife.

Having experienced the Holocaust firsthand, the rebbetzin was determined to combat the spiritual holocaust that she saw happening in North America. She concluded that Jewish-Americans were under siege from within.

"In the 1960s and 70s, we had a generation that surpassed expectations in every field," says Jungreis. "But when it came to spirituality, we, the People of the Book, were Jewish illiterates. Something had to be done."

So, in 1973, Rebbetzin Jungreis founded Hineni. The word "Hineni" means "Here I am," which is what Abraham said to God to indicate his readiness when he was called on in the Book of Genesis.

Hineni was the magic word at Madison Square Garden in November 1973 as the

place rocked with 10,000 people singing and dancing in response to Rebbetzin Jungreis' Rock and Soul Lecture. Since then, Jungreis has spread her message of faith and Jewish tradition to thousands worldwide.

"To be a Jew is the greatest privilege," she implores audiences around the world. "To be unaware of it is the greatest catastrophe - it is spiritual genocide."

Hineni programs have been held throughout the world in the United States, Israel, Europe, South Africa, Canada and Australia. Rebbetzin Jungreis' personality and charisma have drawn standing-room only crowds to her lectures worldwide.

In addition to Rebbetzin's Jungreis busy schedule as a highly-coveted speaker, every week between 1,500 and 2,000 people in Manhattan come to hear her class on the Torah portion. She also



Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis

speaks regularly to the United States Army and Navy as well as the Israel Defense Forces and is author of three bestselling books - The Committed Marriage, The Committed Life and Jewish Soul on Fire.

To purchase tickets to the Jewish Unity Live evening featuring Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis and musical entertainment by Kol Zimra Ensemble, contact the JET Office (798-9818, ext. 247 or email [jet@jccottawa.com](mailto:jet@jccottawa.com)).

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## The rise of anti-Semitism in contemporary Britain

Shalom Lappin, professor of computational linguistics at King's College, London, will speak on the topic of "The Rise of a New Anti-Semitism in Contemporary Britain" at Carleton

University on Thursday, March 30, 2006 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The event, sponsored by Carleton University's Centre for Jewish Studies and the Center on Value & Ethics (COVE), will discuss the anti-Jewish discourse that has entered mainstream public conversation in Britain.

Professor Lappin will consider this new breed of anti-Semitism whose principal aims are to de-legitimize Israel as a country, promote

hatred and violence against Israeli civilians, and malign diaspora Jews who support Israel's right to exist.

Masked as anti-Israel and anti-Zionist comments, the new anti-Semitism is directed against Jews as a people and has acquired respectability from policy statements of major British politicians and public figures.

Professor Lappin is an active member of social democratic and labour orga-

nizations in Canada, Israel and Britain. He was a member of Peace Now and supporter of the Meretz party. He is also a frequent contributor to *Dissent* magazine and a member of the *Engage Journal* editorial board.

The event will take place in the Arts Faculty Lounge (2017 DT) at Carleton University. More information about the seminar can be found on the COVE website <http://www.carleton.ca/cove>.



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Shabbaton in celebration of Yom Haatzmaut ... April 28/29

Tefilla Chagigat for Yom Haatzmaut ... May 2

Yom Yerushalayim program ... May 25

And, of course, our regular daily, Shabbat and Chagim services,  
ongoing youth programs and a warm community.

For more information, please call the Shul office 723-1800.





## Hillel Lodge

LONG-TERM CARE FOUNDATION

*In support  
of the Bess and Moe  
Greenberg Family  
Hillel Lodge  
in the Joseph  
and Inez Zelikovitz  
Long Term Care Centre*

### Card Donations

Card donations go a long way to improving the quality of life for our residents. Thank you for considering their needs and contributing to their well-being.

On behalf of the residents and their families, we extend sincere appreciation to the following individuals and families who made card donations to the Hillel Lodge Long-Term Care Foundation between January 19 and February 21, 2006.

### HONOUR FUNDS

Unlike a bequest or gift of life insurance, which are realized some time in the future, a named Honour Fund (i.e., endowment fund) is established during your lifetime.

By making a contribution of \$1,000 or more, you can create a permanent remembrance for a loved one, honour a family member, declare what the Lodge has meant to you and/or support a cause that you believe in.

A Hillel Lodge Honour Fund is a permanent pool of capital that earns interest or income each year. This income then supports the priorities designated by you, the donor.

### Leona Adler Endowment Fund

#### In Memory of:

Maria Schwartzman by Marilyn Adler.  
Audrey Freiman by Marilyn Adler.  
Adela Reiskind by Marilyn Adler.  
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Sally Borenstein by Marilyn Adler.  
Elsie Baker by Marilyn Adler.

#### R'Fuah Shlema:

Suzi Sauve by Marilyn Adler.

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Mary Potechin by Paula and Manny Agulnik.  
Abe Prizant by Paula and Manny Agulnik.  
Izzy Shore by Paula and Manny Agulnik.  
Audrey Freiman by Paula and Manny Agulnik.

Nate Smith by Paula and Manny Agulnik.

#### In Honour of:

Faye and Bert Zebberman Mazal Tov on your 50th anniversary by Paula and Manny Agulnik and Family.

### The Elsie Baker Endowment Fund

#### In Memory of:

Elsie Baker by Zelda and Leon Zelikovitz; Ingrid and Gerry Levitz; Ellie and Hy Cutler; Georgia Ellis; Lillian Kahane and Sally; Bessie Taller; Max Smolkin; Sheila and Bob Smolkin; Inez Zelikovitz; Sandy and Warren Scott; Shirley and Al Cohen; Sylvia Molot; Patty, Richard and Ross Levitan; Betty and Sam Kotzer and Family; and Malca Baker Labell.

*On behalf of the Residents Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge, we extend our sincere thanks for the generous contribution made in memory of their Mother, Elsie, by Polly Moran, Mel and Ronald Baker.*

#### In Honour of:

Lenora and Evan Zelikovitz In appreciation by Polly Moran, Melvyn and Ronald Baker.

### The Boris and Dolly Blacher Family Fund

#### In Memory of:

Jean Guiot by Marla Blacher.

### The Malcolm and Vera Glube Endowment Fund

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Alan (son of Grace and Burton Mendelson) by Vera and Malcolm Glube.

Edward Cohen by Vera and Malcolm Glube.

Bertram "Buddy" Elkins by Vera and Malcolm Glube.

#### In Honour of:

Ruth and Ron Levitan Mazal Tov on Michael's engagement by Vera and Malcolm Glube.

### Neil Gluck Memorial Fund

#### In Memory of:

Audrey Freiman by Maureen and Henry Molot.

Tali Gutmann by Maureen, Henry, Alex, Adena and Edie Molot.

#### In Honour of:

Alex Molot Mazal Tov on your new position. We hope this is the beginning of many good things to come by Maureen, Henry, Alex, Adena and Edie Molot.

Judith and David Kalin Mazal Tov on the birth of your twin grandchildren by Maureen,

Henry, Alex, Adena and Edie Molot.

Aviva and Michael Kalin Mazal Tov on the birth of your twins by Maureen, Henry, Alex, Adena and Edie Molot.

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Schneiderman Mazal Tov on the birth of your granddaughter Emma Rebecca by Maureen and Henry Molot.

### The Evelyn and Irving Greenberg Fund

#### In Memory of:

Audrey Freiman by Evelyn and Irving Greenberg.

Christine Gorman (sister of John Rutherford) by Evelyn and Irving Greenberg.

Elsie Baker by Evelyn and Irving Greenberg.

#### R'Fuah Shlema:

Geety Freedman by Evelyn and Irving Greenberg.

### The Moses Greenberg and Elissa Greenberg Iny Fund

#### In Memory of:

Lillian Kimmel by Elissa and Avi Iny.

Audrey Freiman by Elissa and Avi Iny.

Herman Halpern by Elissa and Avi Iny.

#### In Honour of:

Roz and Arnie Kimmel Mazal Tov on the occasions of Ashley's baby naming and Sam's second birthday by Elissa and Avraham Iny.

Lauren and Rabbi Zisha Shaps Mazal Tov on Adina's marriage by Elissa and Avraham Iny.

#### R'Fuah Shlema:

Ricki Baker by Elissa and Avraham Iny.

### The David, Harvey and Victor Kardish Family Fund

#### In Memory of:

Lillian Kimmel by Gale, Victor and Sydney Kardish.

#### In Honour of:

Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Bronshter Wishing you a hearty Mazal Tov on Adam and Sherri's marriage by Margo, David, Aaron and Gail Kardish.

Sue and Phil Bronshter Mazal Tov on Adam and Sherri's marriage and may you have many more happy occasions to celebrate by Margo, David, Aaron and Gail Kardish.

#### R'Fuah Shlema:

Carol Kaufman by Gail, Victor and Sydney Kardish.

Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Bronshter by Margo, David, Aaron and Gail Kardish.

### Lillian and Morris Kimmel Family Fund

#### In Memory of:

Lillian Kimmel by Susan and Leonard Kerzner and Family; The Herskovitz-Farber Family; Sonja and Ron Kesten; Arlene and David Angel-Blair; Sylvia and Max Williams; Noa and Sheldon Schwartz; Norma and Brian Silverstone, and Bernice Hochberg; Marilyn and Dan Kimmel; Joy and Seymour Mender and Family; Ben Colasanti and Euro Ceramics; Sunny and John Tavel; Sandi and Raoul Komgold; Donna and Gary Garber and Family; Sina Sattizzo; Myra Presser; Celia, Stephen, Matt and Ryan Bobkin;

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#### In Honour of:

Ruth and Ithiel Snyder Mazal Tov on Uziel Chaim becoming a Bar Mitzvah by Golda and Ned Steinman and Family.

### The Bill and Phyllis Leith Family Endowment Fund

#### In Memory of:

Mary Potechin by Judi and Eddie Kerzner; Lisa and David Leith; Kayla and Alvin Mallay; and Phyllis Leith.

Grandmother of Charles Rak by Lisa, David, Sydney and Zachary Leith.

Audrey Freiman by Phyllis Leith, and Kayla Mallay.

Herman Halpern by Phyllis Leith, and Gloria and Barry Trainoff.

Sylvia Saslove by Judi and Ed Kerzner.

Issie Shore by Phyllis Leith, and Lisa and David Leith and Family.

Elsie Baker by Phyllis Leith.

Bertram "Buddy" Elkins by Phyllis Leith.

#### In Honour of:

Gloria and Barry Trainoff Mazal Tov on Arie's Bar Mitzvah by Phyllis Leith, and Kayla and Alvin Mallay.

Evelyn Rivers Mazal Tov on the engagement of your granddaughter Yale Diamond to Josh Salmon by Kayla and Alvin Mallay.

Kamil Tannis and Staff of Tannis Trading Our sincere appreciation for your continued kindness by Phyllis Leith, Marilyn Adler and Staff of Hillel Lodge.

#### R'Fuah Shlema:

Marilyn Kimmel by Phyllis Leith.

Ariella and Jeremy Miller by Kayla and Alvin Mallay.

Barry Trainoff by Phyllis Leith.

### The Levenson/Polowin Feeding Fund

#### In Memory of:

Mary Potechin by Heidi and Stephen Polowin.

#### In Honour of:

Marcia and Barry Cantor Wishing you a very happy 25th wedding anniversary by Heidi and Stephen Polowin.

Ellie Glantz Wishing you a very happy 'special' birthday by Heidi and Stephen Polowin.

Justice Gerry Morin Congratulations on receiving the Carleton Medal by Heidi and Stephen Polowin.

Malca and Chuck Polowin Mazal Tov on your special anniversary by Heidi and Stephen Polowin.

(Continued on page 16)

**THE LODGE EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT AND APOLOGIZES FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS. DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, THE WORDING APPEARING IN THE BULLETIN IS NOT NECESSARILY THE WORDING WHICH APPEARED ON THE CARD.**

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(Continued from page 15)

**Dr. Lloyd Rossman** Thank you for your kindness by Heidi and Steve Polowin.

**Dr. Victor Kaminsky** Thank you for your kindness by Heidi and Steve Polowin.

**Rabbi Steven Garten** Thank you for your kindness by Heidi and Steve Polowin.

**R'fuah Shlema:**  
Heidi Levenson Polowin by Debra and Stephen Schneiderman; and Frayda and Charlie Wiseman.

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In Honour of:

**Jean and Joe Lichtenstein** Mazal Tov on your grandson Lorne's Bar Mitzvah by Wendy and Jack Klein and Family.

**Barbara and Howard Geller** Mazal Tov on Lorne's Bar Mitzvah by Wendy, Jack, Sarah, Danielle and Corey Klein.

#### **The Pencer Family Fund**

In Memory of:

**Lillian Kimmel** by Marcia and Irwin Pencer.

**Frieda Lauterman** by Marcia and Irwin Pencer.

#### **The Schachter/Ingber Family Fund**

In Memory of:

**Grandfather of Debbie Hills** by Rachel, Howard, Davida and Joshua Schachter.

In Honour of:

**Andree and George Acel** Heartfelt Mazal Tov on becoming grandparents. Enjoy! by Rachel, Howard, Davida and Josh Schachter.

#### **The Stephen and Debra Schneiderman Family Fund**

In Memory of:

**Audrey Freiman** by Debra and Stephen Schneiderman.

**Herman Halpern** by Debra and Stephen Schneiderman.

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R'fuah Shlema:

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**Lillian Kimmel** by Leona and Label Silver.

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**Herman Halpern** by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

**Mary Potechin** by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

In Honour of:

**Robin Chernick** and **Norm Leckie** Thank you for your gracious hospitality in welcoming the Temple troupe to your home for Sunday brunch by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

**Dick Zuker** Mazal Tov on your 60th birthday by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

**Anita Rappaport** Mazal Tov on the baby naming of your granddaughter Shira Stewart by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

**Tom Gussman** In appreciation for the lovely mitzvah by Ted Jacobsen.

**Dr. Vincent Chan** In appreciation by Ted Jacobsen.

**Laya Jacobsen** In appreciation of my wife, 'the lovely Laya' by Ted Jacobsen.

#### **The Sarah and Arnie Swedler Family Fund**

In Memory of:

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**Martina** (mother and grandmother of Monica Stein) by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

**Herman Halpern** by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

In Honour of:

**Alvin Stein** Happy 65th birthday and celebrate many more in good health by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

**Ray and Ernie Goldstein** Mazal Tov on the birth of your grandson by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

**Barbara and David Slipacoff** Mazal Tov on the birth of your granddaughter by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

**Gladys and John Greenberg** Mazal Tov on the birth of your granddaughter by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

**R'fuah Shlema:**

**Suzi Sauve** by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

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**Gloria and Barry Trainoff** Mazal Tov on the occasion of Arie's Bar Mitzvah by Roslyn and Myles Taller.

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In Memory of:

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**Adele Gordon** by Fuzzy and Max Teitelbaum.

**Frieda Lauterman** by Fuzzy (Zinman) Teitelbaum.

**Audrey Freiman** by Fuzzy and Max Teitelbaum.

#### **The Milton and Mary (Terry) Viner Family Fund**

In Memory of:

**Samuel Schaeenfield** by Milton Viner, and

**Shirley and Gordon Viner.**

**Herman Halpern** by Millie Schaeenfield; and Faye and Moshe Helman.

#### **The Eric Weiner and Arlene Godfrey Family Fund**

In Memory of:

**Audrey Freiman** by Arlene Godfrey, Eric Weiner, Melissa and Laura.

**Mary Potechin** by Arlene Godfrey, Eric Weiner, Melissa and Laura.

**Sylvia Saslove** by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz.

#### **The Carole and Norman Zagerman Family Fund**

In Memory of:

**Adele Gordon** by Carole and Norman Zagerman.

In Honour of:

**Carol Greenberg** Mazal Tov on Heather and Jeff's engagement by Carole and Norman Zagerman.

**Bess and Casey Swedlove** Mazal Tov on your 65th wedding anniversary by Carole and Norman Zagerman.

#### **The Residents' Feeding Program**

In Memory of:

**Sylvia Saslove** by Sharon and Joel Edelson; and Lil and Norm Levitin.

**Martina** (mother of Monica Stein and Marie Schwartz) by Pat Guthrie.

**To commemorate the Yahrzeit of Samuel Dale** by Robert Dale and Family.

In Honour of:

**Mary Goldberg** Happy Birthday to a special lady on her special birthday by Lil and Norm Levitin.

**Debbie Lederman** Mazal Tov on the birth of Tzvia Malka by Patty Guthrie.

**R'fuah Shlema:**

**Marion Silver** by The Avery Family.

#### **The Ritual Fund**

In Memory of:

**Abe Prizant** by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **IN MEMORY OF:**

**Audrey Freiman** by The Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; Susan and Philip Firestone; Annette, Jack and Elihu Edelson; Shirley and Al Cohen; Barbara and Sid Cohen; Jane and Bill James; and Roz and Stan Labov.

**Maria Schwartzman** by The Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge.

**Sylvia Saslove** by R. J. Ciforelli; Sunny and John Tavel; Evelyn Rotenberg; Annette and Jack Edelson; Jane and Bill James; Eleanor and Peter Brotman; and Esther Baylin.

**Adela Reiskind** by Miriam and Victor Rabinovitch; the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; and Susan Elias.

**Herman Halpern** by Morley Goldfield and Family; Sally Philippon; Eleanor and Peter Brotman; and Shirley and Al Cohen.

**Mary Potechin** by Sue and Phil Bronsther; Dr. Bruce Robinson; Shirley Tubman; Ingrid and Gerry Levitz; Murray Citron; Barbara and Sid Cohen; Mara and Isaac Muzikansky;

**Leon Steimetz** by Estelle and Sol Gunner; and the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge

**Frieda Lauterman** by Carole and Mark Froimovitch, Anna and Mona Froimovitch.

**Annie Philippon** by Ilse and Frank Toth;

**Joy and Seymour Mender and Family;** Gladys and John Greenberg; Barbara and Shelly Kalnitsky; Susan Schiffer and Ellen Green; and The Ottawa Hospital.

**Elsie Baker** by The Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; and Susan Elias.

**Peter Benedek** by Margery, Lou and Howard Goldmaker.

**Edward Cohen** by Roz and Stan Labov.

**Naomi Doverson** by The Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge.

**Isse Halle** by Morag Burch and Staff of Hillel Lodge.

**Samuel Schaeenfield** by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; Ingrid and Sam Shapiro; Sally, Barry and Diane Philippon; and Edith and Dave Appotive.

**Dora Iivitsky** by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; and Mara and Isaac Muzikansky.

**Sally Bornstein** by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge.

**Nathan Wasserman** by Edith and Dave Appotive.

**Lester Lazarus** by Rhonda and Danny Levine.

**Mother of Jill Bradley** by Morag Burch, Staff and Residents of Hillel Lodge; and Susan-Sara and Leonard Kerzner.

**Sister of Nikki Bertbäume** by Morag Burch, Staff and Residents of Hillel Lodge.

**Father of Naney Ross** by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz.

**Bessie Farber** by Promisel and Locke Families.

**Abe Prizant** by Eleanor and Peter Brotman.

**Dora Schaeenfield** by The Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge.

**A special friend of Jackie and Ian Parker,** "Toby" by Roz and Stan Labov.

#### **IN HONOUR OF:**

**Ray and Ernie Goldstein** Mazal Tov on the birth of your new grandson and granddaughter by Zeld and Leon Zelikovitz.

**Stan Aaron** Wishing you a very Happy Birthday by Carol, Evan and Miriam Diamond.

**Malca and Chuck Polowin** Best wishes for many more happy and healthy years together. Happy Anniversary by Barbara and Sid Cohen.

**Shirley and Hymie Schildkraut** Mazal Tov in your new home by Lily Feig.

**Vita and Stanley Winthrop** Wishing you a very Happy Anniversary by Ruth and Myron Poplove.

**Susan and David Kriger** Mazal Tov on your special birthdays by Frayda and Charles Wiseman.

**Majorie Achbar** Wishing you a very special, happy birthday by Miriam and Jack Plect.

**The Fymans** Mazal Tov in your new home by Lily Feig.

**The Schildkrauts** Mazal Tov in your new home by Lily Feig.

**Jozef and Vera Straus** Mazal Tov in your new home by Lily Feig.

#### **R'FUAH SHEMA:**

**Heidi Polowin** by The Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge.

**David Michaelson** by Pat and Martin Marcus.

**Ricki Baker** by Beverly, David, Jory and Mark Gluzman.

**Evelyn Silverman** by Roz and Stan Labov.

**Suzi Shore** by Susan Elias.



## Na'amat Otzma chapter hosts another 'Fab'ulous fundraiser

By Ilana Albert-Novick

When we take our kids to a playground in Ottawa, we have certain expectations. We expect the park to be clean and safe, and we hope our kids can explore, grow and have fun.

The same can be said for families in Israel that send more than 28,000 children to Na'amat day care centres each day.

Like Canada, Israel has high standards when it comes to children's safety. Na'amat Canada has committed to raise more than \$250,000 over the next three years to rebuild, repair

and refurbish playgrounds at Na'amat Israel's day care centres. The cost per playground is approximately \$6,000 (Canadian).

Last year, Ottawa's Na'amat Otzma chapter raised this amount with two successful events: its annual fundraiser party in January and its first annual Mother's Day tea. This year's fundraiser party raised \$4,100.

Otzma chapter's annual fundraising party is known for its delicious desserts and great auction items. Fab the Magician mystified and enthralled the guests with up-close illusions. Stunt-

man Stu was also on hand to entertain the crowd and host the live auction.

"We achieved our goal with a dedicated team of volunteers," says Sharon Reichstein, proud Otzma chapter president.

"Thank you to all of the community sponsors who continue to support us and make a difference.

Plans are well under way

for the Mother's Day Tea being held the afternoon of May 14, so please save the date! We hope to raise enough money to build or repair at least two playgrounds."

For more information on Na'amat Otzma's Mother's Day Tea and how you can support these initiatives, please contact the Na'amat office (722-2932).



Rena Kimia-Sabloff (left) and Sharon Reichstein tally the auction results. Na'amat Otzma's Mother's Day Tea takes place on May 14.

## Hillel Academy at the Lodge

(Continued from page 4)

The Grade 4 - Hillel Lodge project consisted of two meetings. On the first visit, the students were divided into pairs and assigned to a resident, whom they interviewed about their life, their past and their passions.

The students visited the residents' rooms during the second visit, accompanied by a Hillel Lodge volunteer. This personalized the visit and gave the students an idea of the resident's life before Hillel Lodge.

The students then created a project about the life of the resident they had interviewed. The imaginative results illustrated the hard work put in by the students.

The residents were thrilled to interact with the children. Lillian Kahan said that spending time with the

kids "made me feel like one of them."

Many residents remarked on the students' maturity and kindness.

The students enjoyed the visits as much as the residents. Since the project ended, a number of students have visited their new friends at Hillel Lodge with their parents.

Says Adler, "The long-term goal of the program is to develop relationships."

For the residents, the program gives them the benefit of reviewing their life and seeing that people are still interested in hearing their stories. For the students, says Lebovich, "it is more than the project; it has become a real friendship."

One of the student pairs sums up the project: "Old people rock!"

### Advertorial

#### Book published

Congratulations to Dr. Judith Robertson on the publication of her second book, *Provocations: Sylvia Ashton-Warner and Excitability in Education*, which was recently published by Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., New York.

Judith, a professor in the School of Graduate Studies and the Teacher Education Department at the University of Ottawa, is the wife of SJCC board member, Allan Kathnelson and the mother of Zachary Kathnelson.

Judith recently was the recipient of the University of Ottawa Award for Exemplary Teaching given annually to one professor selected out of all the different faculties.



## REPAIRING SHORT CIRCUITS' IN THE BRAIN...

### Hope for treatments of conditions such as MS

Hear experts from Canada and Israel discuss how diseased brain 'wires' translate into the symptoms and signs of MS and how exciting new research aimed at understanding how these 'wires' function may open doors to novel treatments.

Ied Warren is an MS patient who successfully cycled our country from coast to coast and he is preparing to single handedly circumnavigate North America. Hear about his experience with the disease and what this research can mean to people like him.

#### PRESENTATIONS BY:

##### Dr. Elinor Peles

Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Cell Biology, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel

##### Dr. Mark Freedman

Professor of Medicine, University of Ottawa and Director, Multiple Sclerosis Research Unit, Ottawa Hospital

##### Ted Warren

Patient Advocate

Thursday, March 30, 2006 – 7:30 p.m.

Agudath Israel, Main Hall

1400 Coldrey Ave. (near Carling and Kirkwood)

Dessert Reception - Dietary Laws Observed

#### ADMISSION IS FREE

For reservations or for more information, contact the Ottawa chapter of The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science at 613-236-3391 or Susan@weizmann.ca



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Monday  
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# Jewish Unity Live

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Guest Speaker  
Rebbetzin  
**Esther Jungreis**  
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world-renowned author and lecturer

Canadian Museum of Nature  
Tickets \$36, Students. \$18

Featuring:  
**Kol Zimra Ensemble**



## Yitzhak Rabin graduates receive early acceptances to universities of their choice

More than half the students in Yitzhak Rabin's Grade 12 graduating class received early acceptance to the university of their choice by December 2005.

"This is unprecedented," said principal Prosper Torjman.

"Universities don't usually accept students on the basis of their Grade 11 marks. The fact that they did attests not only to the accomplishments of the individual students, but also to the excellent academic reputation that our school has earned with the universities."

Yitzhak Rabin graduates have been accepted at universities all over the world, including Brandeis, Harvard, Hebrew University, York, Carleton and the universities of Toronto and Ottawa.

"Over 50 per cent of these students also received scholarships," Torjman says.

"Some very substantial."

So why is the Yitzhak Rabin program so successful?

Grade 12 student Talya Arousi believes it is the individual attention each student receives from a group of dedicated teachers.

"There is nothing like this school when it comes to teaching. All students get the kind of attention that they need. There is help for those who need it and challenges for those who want more," she says.

Grade 10 student Tal-Or Ben Choreen attributes the success of the school to the warm atmosphere.

"Here, at Yitzhak Rabin, we are like one big family. There are no cliques. Everybody is friends with everyone else," she says.

When asked if the small student population might prevent students from meeting people from outside the

school, two Grade 11 students say this is not a problem. Jackie Huberman and Alexa Yegendorf explain they meet kids from all over at social activities the school sponsors.

The entire student body enjoyed their recent ski trip, and is looking forward to both the spring visit of eight Israeli exchange students and to the trip to Israel planned for next year.

The Grade 9s are gearing up for their May 21-24 trip to Washington, where, along with students from all over Canada, they will visit the Holocaust Museum and get a taste of what it is like in the power capital of the world.

So if you have a son or daughter entering high school, Yitzhak Rabin might just be the place.

As Principal Torjman says: "Yitzhak Rabin has an open door policy. Come and see for yourself."



YRHS students Taylor, Ali, Mira and Atara enjoy lunch together

## New for Summer 2006

- ✧ New Landsports Program, teaching campers skills in many new and exciting sports.
- ✧ Guitar and Piano lessons, from beginner to advanced!
- ✧ Tutoring in Bar/Bat Mitzvah Lessons!
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Many age groups are almost filled already!**

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RESIDENCES

## Jewish Community Service Awards

Members of the Jewish community are invited to nominate individuals to receive the following community awards at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation in early June.

### Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award

The Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award is the highest tribute that the Ottawa Jewish Community can bestow on an individual for exceptional service over the course of many years. Initiated in 1980, it bears the name of the late Past President of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Gilbert Greenberg, who exemplified the qualities of leadership, which the award endeavours to recognize.

### Freiman Family Young Leadership Award

The Freiman Family Young Leadership Award recognizes an individual or an organization within the Jewish community, under the age of 40, who has contributed actively to the Jewish community in the two or more years following his/her participation in the Young Leadership Development Program, or as a young leader rendered exceptional service to the Jewish community.

### The Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award

*"There are three crowns: the crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of kingship; but the crown of a good name excels them all."*  
- Rabbi Shimon

The Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award was created to recognize an outstanding and active volunteer with the Jewish community who, through many years of service, has contributed to the enrichment of Jewish life in Ottawa.

### Address Recommendations by March 31, 2006 to:

Nominations for Community Award  
c/o Chair of the Selection Committee  
Jewish Federation of Ottawa

21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9

For more information, please visit [www.jewishottawa.com](http://www.jewishottawa.com)

### NOMINATION FORM (Please attach another page to tell us more)

- ☐ Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award
- ☐ Freiman Family Young Leadership Award
- ☐ Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award

#### ABOUT YOU

Nominator name

Daytime Phone

E-mail Address

#### ABOUT NOMINEE

Nominee

Agency or Organization

E-mail Address

Detail community involvement and special contributions



Senior Kindergarten students enjoy fruit and treats during the Tu B'Shevat assembly.

## Torah Academy, Tu B'Shevat and the word Amen

In recent years, the Jewish world has refocused on the word *Amen* and its awesome power.

In planning the Torah Academy of Ottawa's annual Tu B'Shevat assembly, members of the Judaic faculty suggested that the Tu B'Shevat gathering would be an appropriate venue for the students of Torah Academy to parlay the individual blessings recited over the Tu B'Shevat fruits into a much more significant experience.

Accordingly, the assembly began with explanations and stories that highlighted how individuals and groups have creatively discovered ways and means by which to generate large numbers of *Amen* responses.

Then, the principal, Rabbi Yisroel Goldbaum, distributed bags of tastefully prepared Tu B'Shevat fruits to the students,

courtesy of the Torah Academy PTA.

Beginning with the four-year-old junior kindergarteners, each class of students stepped up and recited loud blessings in front of the entire assemblage. When responding with *Amen*, students were encouraged to have in mind relatives or acquaintances whom they knew to be in difficult circumstances.

The resounding chorus of *Amen* was so uplifting that, after the assembly, the Grade 5/6 boys class came up with a creative way to generate more *Amen* responses during their daily prayer.

In total, it is estimated that the assembly generated over 500 declarations of *Amen*!

In a day and age when spiritual currency is at a premium, Torah Academy of Ottawa is generating sacred savings for the future!



### JSA-Hillel Ottawa Semi Formal Gala

Saturday, March 25, 2006

Beth Shalom downtown

7:30 pm Cocktails • 8:30 pm Dinner & Dancing

Student Price: \$15 before March 10

Non-Student: \$20

The Jewish Association-Hillel is holding its first annual Gala celebrating young Jewish leadership in Ottawa. JSA-Hillel Ottawa has partnered with the Jewish Law Students Association, the Jewish Med Students Association, AEPi, Gamma Zeta Psi, JET and YAD. This year's Gala will highlight the amazing growth and vibrancy of Jewish organizations on Campus in Ottawa, which has tripled over the last three years.

The Gala will feature events such as a silent auction, birthright photo contest, an Israeli university Shuk, and much more. Keynote Speaker to be announced.

For tickets please email: [rsvp@jsaottawa.com](mailto:rsvp@jsaottawa.com)



## Rabbi Heschel's work in improving Jewish-Christian relations theme of College of Jewish Studies lectures at Saint-Paul U

By Ariel Goldberg

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1906-1972) was a leading traditional Jewish thinker whose writings have positively affected the way millions – Catholics and Protestants no less than Jews – understand their relationship with God.

On a larger scale, he helped transform the relationship between Judaism and Christianity from one marked by anti-Semitism to one of greater empathy.

At Saint-Paul University on March 30 and 31, the College of Jewish Studies and its partners will present two lectures by Dr. Harold Kasimow (professor of religion, Grinnell College, Iowa) and Dr. John Merkle (professor of theology, Saint-John's University, Minnesota) exploring Heschel's philosophy of Jewish-Christian relations.

A Jew and a Catholic, respectively, both men are noted scholars of religion

and Heschel experts. Together, they have given many well-received lectures exploring how Heschel's ideas can help Jews and Christians to better understand their commonalities and prospects for co-operation in the pursuit of common ends.

Heschel's philosophy of Jewish-Christian relations responds to the question of whether Judaism's relationship with Christianity ought to change given recent historical developments.

In modern North America, Heschel noted, Judaism and Christianity are no longer adversaries and face a common enemy: secularism.

For their religions to remain vital, despite the onslaught of secularism, each must play a significant role in public life. Jews and Christians should, therefore, co-operate in the pursuit of common ends, including the elimination of racism and

the transformation of our materialistic culture into one founded on reverence for God and humanity.

A watershed in the transformation of Jewish-Christian relations was *Nostra Aetate*, a 1965 Papal declaration which for the first time proclaimed anti-Semitism a sin and recognized the Jews' covenant with God as equal to the Christian's.

This development was largely an outcome of Heschel's dialogues with Pope Paul VI and other Church officials in his capacity as representative of the American Jewish Committee to the Second Vatican Council.

How a devoutly observant rabbi brought about this rapprochement without minimizing the real differences between Judaism and Christianity will be discussed in Dr. Kasimow and Dr. Merkle's lectures.

This event is one of five Heschel colloquia presented



Rabbi Heschel (left) meets with Cardinal Bea (right), a leading figure in the creation of *Nostra Aetate* (1965).

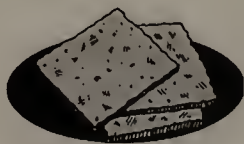
by the College of Jewish Studies at Saint-Paul University. Each lecture will be followed by a question and answer period.

For details, see the ad in the Soloway JCC section of this *Bulletin*.

For information about upcoming colloquia, contact Ariel Goldeberg (261-2498).

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BAYIT**



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**Monday, April 17th, 2006 • 6:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Agudath Israel Congregation**

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ENDS  
MARCH 31**

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JON BRAUN AT 798-9818 EXT. 267 OR [JBRAUN@JCCOTTAWA.COM](mailto:JBRAUN@JCCOTTAWA.COM)



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to Sunday, March 19**

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# SOLOWAY JCC

## THE HESCHEL COLLOQUIA

A PROGRAM OF THE OTTAWA COLLEGE OF JEWISH STUDIES  
FEATURING LECTURES BY INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SCHOLARS

At Saint-Paul University, 223 Main Street  
No Religion is an Island: Rabbi Heschel's ideas about  
Judaism's relationships with other faiths.

OR. JOHN MERKLE (SAINT JOHN UNIVERSITY)  
AND OR. HAROLO KASIMOW (GRINNELL COLLEGE).

March 30: 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

"Heschel's Jewish Challenge to Christian Self-Understanding" (Merkle)  
"Rabbi Heschel's View of Other Faiths: A Reconsideration." (Kasimow)

March 31: 9:00 - 11:00 A.M.

"Vatican II's Nostra Aetate and Beyond: A New Era in Christian-Jewish Relations"  
(Merkle) • "John Paul II, Benedict XVI and the Theology of World Religions." (Kasimow)

## THE HESCHEL SEMINARS

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Accessible to people of all perspectives and Jewish knowledge levels.  
R.S.V.P. encouraged. Please call Ariel Goldberg at 261-2498 to obtain readings in  
advance of each seminar.

THIRD SESSION: THURSDAY, APRIL 6 - 7:30-9:00 P.M.

The Divine-human encounter. Excerpts from Heschel's masterwork "G-d in search of  
man" will be discussed. Our respondent will be Rabbi Charles Popky of Congregation  
Agudath Israel.

CO-SPONSORED BY SAINT-PAUL UNIVERSITY, THE SOLOWAY JCC  
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## Three proud Scouts

By Dawn Logan,  
archivist,  
Ottawa Jewish Archives  
"Be Prepared" is the Boy  
Scout motto.

When one looks at the three Scout shirts with their multitude of Proficiency Badges and War Hours earned by three proud Scouts, Alan Abelson, Arnold Borts (1925-1997) and Abe Hochberg (1928-2005) in the early 1940s, now in the Ottawa Jewish Archives display case at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, one realizes it was a very special moment

in the lives of these teenagers.

A note of excitement can be detected in Alan Abelson's voice when he recently described qualifying for a badge by using a flashlight and biking within a mile radius of Troop Headquarters in order to locate public services such as fire and police stations in case of an emergency.

"It was quite an adventure learning survival type instructions," he says.

When speaking with Abe Hochberg a few years ago, his conversation had the

ring of many memorable moments "in earning more proficiency badges than any other scout in the troop." He later graduated to Air Cadets with the Macabee Air Cadet Squadron.

Their badges went far beyond knot tying. All were First Class Scouts and two were King's Scouts of the 39th Jewish Boy Scout Troop in Ottawa.

The Pathfinder Badges stick in Alan Abelson's mind as especially challenging. They had Red Wings which meant they held the Airman, Aero Engineer and Handyman Proficiency Badges. Abe Hochberg also had the Silver Wings signifying proficiency as a camper, weatherman and signaller.

The three scout shirts have a red, rectangular badge imprinted with 100 War Hours or 200 War Hours. It was the period of the Second World War and these badges were earned by service to the Ottawa community.

For example, the Canadian Women's Club had lunches and teas at the Capital Theatre and scouts would assist with coat checks and waiting on tables.

Apple Day was another highlight on the scouting calendar. The night before Scouts gathered at headquarters on Metcalfe Street and slept on the wooden floor for an early start. There were hikes in Rockcliffe Park and overnights also.

These three shirts symbolize a special time in the lives of Alan Abelson, Arnold Borts and Abe Hochberg when scouting was very popular, and it was their small way of contributing to the war effort.

Alan Abelson was the



(From left to right) Alan Abelson, Arnold Borts and Abe Hochberg proudly served as members of the Scouting movement in Ottawa during the early 1940s)

(Photo courtesy Ottawa Jewish Archives)

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youngest. He went on to become a lawyer and practised in Ottawa. He is now retired.

Arnold Borts became a chartered accountant in Toronto.

Abe Hochberg remained in Ottawa and operated a men's clothing store.

Scouting for Ottawa Jewish boys goes back to 1918. Jess Abelson, an avid sportsman and Alan's father, was the founder of the 39th with a membership of 22 boys.

The Young Men's Hebrew Association was the sponsor in the early days. The next sponsor was the B'nai Brith Ottawa Lodge No. 885 followed by the Jewish Community Centre downtown.

In 1989, the 39th was revitalized under the leadership of Howie Osterer and was renamed the 39th Henry "Hank" Torontow Scout Troop to honour Hank

Torontow's "distinguished meritorious service as a Director of Scouting between 1957 and 1971."

Arnold Borts's scout shirt arrived at the Ottawa Jewish Archives shortly after the move into the new centre in 1998. Alan Abelson's donation of both his shirt and a photograph of the three young men took place in the summer of 2005.

Linda Kerzner's recent donation of her father's treasured scout shirt completed the story of these three proud scouts.

It is only occasionally that an archival story comes full circle in this manner. It is even more extraordinary that each of these three proud scouts saved their scout shirts from the early 1940s.

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# Shoshana Damari (1923-2006)

*Sunsets in the mountain will flame and fade  
Yet anemones will always flourish  
Many a storm will roar and rage  
Yet anemones will always newly flame*

*Kalanyot* (Anemones) was written at the end of one war (1945), as the preliminaries of another war, the struggle for Israel's national liberation, were starting. It was Shoshana Damari's first hit, a love song that rallied the Jews of the Yishuv with its message of courage, hope and survival – no matter what!

On February 14, Shoshana Damari died of pneumonia. In her final hours, friends and family, who had gathered at her bedside, sang the old songs. They concluded with *Kalanyot* (a clip of a recording of Damari in her prime can be opened near the end of the tribute by Acting Prime Minister Olmert).

The Associated Press noted that "a wave of nostalgia washed over Israel" when her death was announced: "Her songs ... were played repeatedly throughout the day on Israel's main radio stations, evoking memories of a bygone era of innocence."

Then and now, in an innocent Israel struggling to be born and in a contemporary Israel struggling internally to resolve its course for survival, the dangers and strains were a constant presence and Damari's music, which spoke to individuals about hope, about continuing to love and to live their lives together, was a collective bonding force.

This is clear from the eulogies reported in Israeli print media (see an article in the *Jerusalem Post*, and *Ha'aretz's* account of the Tel Aviv memorial service, with readers' comments that follow each).

## Remembering Damari

Two articles among the mass of web postings and blogs that I saw in the week following her death impressed me because they came close to capturing Damari's essence and significance and dealt with her in more depth than as a stereotype of militancy; e.g., the *New York Times* obituary: "She was best known for her nationalist anthems, popular with the Israeli military."

Criticizing the stereotype is the point of departure for an article by Joseph Braude, a journalist who is knowledgeable in folk music and culture (particularly of the Middle East) and who has recently published a book, *The New Iraq*.

Damari was certainly a patriot, with a deep love for Israel, her land and her people, and justifiably proud of her role as the musical voice of Israeli patriotism. But she was also quite capable, as good folk artists are, of speaking truth to power – of acting as the populist voice, articulating the anguish of her people.

Braude points to her song, "Zacharia Ben Ezra," sung at a small gathering of Prime Minister Ben Gurion and senior Israeli officers and politicians on the eve of the 1956 war, decrying disunity among Israeli elites and reminding them of the folk who depended on them and looked to them for leadership.

A much more naïve appreciation, but a touching one, which provides detail on Damari's life and music, comes from a fan who writes under the pseudonym Vibrani on the Vibes blog. She provides a heartfelt memory of Damari's impact when she first heard one of her recordings, decades ago – the first singer she encountered who sang in Hebrew and "Yemenite."

Vibrani supplies considerable background; for example, when *Kalanyot* first became popular, the words were reshaped for use in the streets to lampoon the hated British red beret security paratroopers.

Besides *Kalanyot*, many other songs by Shoshana Damari can be sampled as audio clips.

We have noted a site that has a collection of CDs digitized from older recordings. Clicking on the capsule of each album cover starts an audio stream of fairly generous extracts from each of the songs on each album.

In addition, a complete or almost complete discography is available on the website of the Freedman collection of Jewish music at the University of Pennsylvania.

## Websites

Olmert and audio clip: <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Communiques/2006/Acting+PM+Olmert+issues+statement+on+death+of+Shoshana+Damari+14-Feb-2006.htm> [hyphens intended]

Associated Press: [http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/O/OBIT\\_DAMARI?SITE=WIMAD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2006-02-14-16-37-54](http://customwire.ap.org/dynamic/stories/O/OBIT_DAMARI?SITE=WIMAD&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2006-02-14-16-37-54) [hyphens intended]



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Jerusalem Post: <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1139395408904&pagename=JPost%2FJArticle%2FShowFull>

Ha'aretz: <http://www.haaretz.dailymail.co.uk/hasen/spoges/684158.html>

Braude: <http://www.tnr.com/doc.mhtml%3Fi=w060213&s=braude021605>

Vibrani: [http://www.newciv.org/nl/newslog.php/\\_v459/\\_show\\_article/\\_o000459-000085.htm](http://www.newciv.org/nl/newslog.php/_v459/_show_article/_o000459-000085.htm)

Audio: [http://www.israel-music.com/shoshana\\_damari/](http://www.israel-music.com/shoshana_damari/)

Freedman: <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/webbin/freedman/lookartist?hr=&what=1915>



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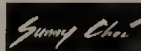
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# The birth of the “cinnamon bun” hamentashen

This is the story of how the “Cinnamon Bun” Hamentashen, was born.

Although I think that my Aunt Carol's Hamentashen are amazing, as a food writer, I feel that each year I have a duty to research and see if there is another recipe that is just as wonderful. My research entails combing through cookbooks and food magazines and searching for “hamentashen” on Google to see what pops up.

There are about 500 variations on the traditional hamentashen dough. You know the one I mean, with eggs, oil, sugar, baking powder and flour. Some add orange juice or zest, some substitute butter or margarine for the oil, some are made with yeast, but, essentially, they all produce similar results.

As I was scrolling through the Google results, one

recipe, “Poppy-Pecan-Honey Hamentashen,” caught my eye. It used honey in the dough instead of sugar. But what really made me do a double take was the author of the recipe, the renowned cookbook author, Bert Greene. He passed away in 1988, but he lives on through his cookbooks. His award winning *Greene on Grains* is well known among foodies and vegetarians everywhere.

If Bert Greene had a recipe for hamentashen, I had to try it.

The dough was easy to make and rolled out beautifully. The poppy seed filling was a bit finicky to make and required an overnight chill in the fridge.

The next day, I filled and baked as instructed, but was disappointed with the results. When I initially read the ingredient list for the filling (poppy seeds, milk, honey,



## Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

pecans, sugar and cinnamon), I imagined a taste not unlike the filling of a cinnamon bun. But it just tasted like regular poppy seed filling with a hint of cinnamon. Definitely not worth the work when you could buy ready-made filling that tastes just like it.

With the image of cinnamon buns stuck in my head, I proceeded to work on a different filling. For inspiration, I headed to one of my favourite cookbooks, Marcy Goldman's *the best of better baking.com*.

I set to work on making a cinnamon bun filling and icing, using Bert Greene's dough. I also tried this filling with my Aunt Carol's more traditional dough recipe. I lined up all the hamentashen on the counter, and once again my family got to celebrate Purim in mid-February.

I liked the cinnamon bun filling with the traditional dough. It bakes up a bit harder, more like a cookie. Roger and the kids liked the cinnamon bun filling with Bert Greene's dough. Because it is made with honey, it is softer, more like a cinnamon bun, I guess. Everyone felt that the white icing kicked it up a notch.

### Cinnamon Bun Hamentashen

Makes about 40 hamentashen

If you have nut allergies, you can substitute coarsely crushed graham wafers in the filling, a trick I learned from Marcy Goldman. If you prefer softer dough, use the honey dough recipe. If you prefer harder cookie-like dough, use Aunt Carol's recipe (at right).

#### Honey dough

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 cup cold unsalted butter or pareve margarine, cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup honey

#### Filling

- 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup toasted chopped pecans or almonds
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter or pareve margarine, softened
- 1 egg white, lightly beaten

#### Icing

- 2 cups icing sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup water, or as needed

Place flour, salt, baking powder and butter in the food processor and pulse machine 8-10 times. Add eggs and honey and mix for about another minute. Dump dough onto a sheet of waxed paper and knead for about a minute. Flatten dough into a disc and wrap and chill for about 1 hour.

Place all the filling ingredients in a medium bowl and use your fingers to combine. Set aside. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Divide dough in half and roll out the first half, about 1/4 inch thick. Rather than rolling out dough on a floured surface, I prefer to roll the dough between two sheets of parchment paper. Use a 3-inch cutter to cut the dough into circles. Put 12 circles on each baking sheet.

Brush the edge of the circles with egg white. Place a teaspoon of the filling into the centre of each circle. Fold up three sides of the dough against the filling, forming a triangular shape. Pinch the edges and corners gently so that the shape holds together. Repeat with remaining filling and dough. Brush unbaked hamentashen with egg white and bake, for about 15 minutes until golden brown.

Set hamentashen on a wire rack to cool. Prepare icing by blending all ingredients together in a medium bowl to make a soft pourable glaze. When hamentashen are cool, spoon or pipe a small amount of icing on each one and allow icing to harden.

Store in an airtight container.

### Aunt Carol's Hamentashen Dough

3 eggs

- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

In the food processor or electric mixer, mix eggs and sugar until smooth, about 2 minutes. Pour in oil and mix to combine. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt and add to mixer. Process just until flour is incorporated.

Remove dough from mixer and pat it into a rectangular shape. Wrap and chill for about 1 hour.

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# Megillat Esther in new contexts

Although Purim is considered a minor festival, its costumes and joyous rowdiness ensure its place in our hearts. Who will ever forget the gragger's grinding growls or the hisses, boos and stamping feet at the mention of Haman?

Essentially, Purim is one more commemoration of Jewish deliverance from disaster, in this case in the 5th century BCE Persian Empire. Over the ages, a Purim-like quality has often been attributed to the deliverances of other Jewish communities.

That is probably because of elements in Megillat Esther that make its story timeless. Among them is the ease of retelling the Purim story within new contexts. The following books employ that technique, as a story within a story, with entertaining and thought-provoking results.

## A Telling Time

By Irene N. Watts

Illustrated by Kathryn E. Shoemaker  
Tradewind Books 2004  
Unpagged Ages 8 and up

*A Telling Time* is an intricately conceived and splendidly written Purim tale set in three historic periods. The title itself is a clever play on words. At one level, it means a time for telling stories. On another level, it refers to specific times in the past when life-and-death decisions were being made.

In the present, a grandmother is telling her granddaughter about her last Purim as a young girl in Vienna, Austria, before the family fled the Nazi occupation. Their present-day conversations appear in normal type face while grandmother's story is in bolder, larger print.

Within that context, grandmother is actually telling two stories – her experience of the Nazi occupation as she and other costumed children listened to their rabbi relating the Purim story.

Parallels between the stories are subtly drawn. The most powerful one being Nazi soldiers invading the rabbi's study just as he has told the children about Haman choosing the date on which to kill all Persian Jews. And just as Haman's date is a bit into the future, so too a Nazi soldier gives the rabbi time to finish his story and send the children home before arresting him.

In that brief interlude, the rabbi assures the children of a happy ending. Queen Esther saves her people. Magic realism saves their rabbi as he vanishes in a flurry of snowflakes.

Kathryn E. Shoemaker's full colour illustrations, complete with elements of fantasy and wonder, are gloriously apt. She immediately sets a tone of hope amid worry with strangely



## Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

swirling snowflakes and a radiant sun-like clock. Her starry illustrations of the Purim story are presented as though on a scroll! and stylistically imitate traditional Persian art.

In sum, although the author takes poetic licence with Megillat Esther – for example, no Vashti – *A Telling Time* is a super addition to both Purim and Holocaust Kid Lit. And all Canadian too!

## The Purim Costume

By Peninnah Schram

Illustrated by Tammy L. Keiser  
URJ Press 2004  
Unpagged Ages 5 - 8

*The Purim Costume* is definitely a simpler and more straightforward holiday book. But that doesn't mean it is in any way inferior to *A Telling Time*. Simply different. While *The Purim Costume* is more traditional in its storytelling, its perspective is modern, child-centred and feminist with a difference.

A Purim-spiel at a community Purim festival is the device used to tell the holiday story. But the main story revolves around Rebecca's choice of a Purim costume and the contest that follows the Purim-spiel.

Tired of dressing up as Queen Esther year after year, Rebecca poutingly rejects her mother's many suggestions for a costume. Finally her mother comes up with a novel idea straight from the Megillah, sort of.

The idea and costume are so innovative, Rebecca doesn't fit any of the categories of the costume contest. Rebecca stands her ground and insists on being recognized as a most unusual Queen Vashti. When she explains her cos-

## The PURIM COSTUME

Peninnah Schram



ILLUSTRATED BY Tammy L. Keiser

From *The Purim Costume*

tume, she, too, wins a prize.

After all, it was Queen Vashti's refusal to dance before the king's friends wearing only her crown that paved the way for Queen Esther. "So we have to thank Vashti for helping to save the Jewish people too."

Childishly casual, occasionally humorous, full colour illustrations add fun to this delightful take on that age-old problem, *The Purim Costume*.

From my family to yours, Chag Purim Samei-ach!

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• URGENT need for winter drivers. Are you a driver? Have you been thinking about volunteering this winter? Help a senior get to a medical appointment when family or other means of transportation is unavailable. Help us to help them.

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*What Do You Mean, You Can't Eat In My Home?*

*A Guide To How Newly Observant Jews*

*And Their Less-Observant Relatives*

*Can Still Get Along*

By Azrielo Jaffe

Schocken/Random House

Hardcover, 2005

Azriela (aka Linda) Jaffe would have liked to have had a book like this available to her when she decided to become Orthodox. Her non-observant parents would have, too, I'm sure. She wrote this book for people like her and the relatives who have to adjust to their family-member-turned-stranger.

It isn't easy for anyone involved. All of a sudden, your daughter has to be careful about what she eats in your home. Or if she eats in your home at all. All of a sudden, your son won't pick up the phone on Shabbat. You can't go to the beach any more to swim as a family because your children cannot be immodestly clothed. There are countless complications for staying close as a family when members become newly religious, and they can seem insurmountable.

But they can be overcome, asserts Jaffe, without violating either "side's" chosen lifestyles, without offending sensibilities. With great sensitivity, she shows readers the way – the newly religious and those who have to get along with them, for this book is directed to both. Uppermost is to refrain from criticism ("You must have been brainwashed!"), or proselytizing ("You should become more observant!"). But equally important is to be compassionate and patient.

Jaffe deals with all kinds of scenarios and addresses questions likely to arise when observant and non-observant relatives get together, or try to.

She explains how one can keep kosher in a non-kosher home, and how a non-kosher host can entertain a strictly kosher relative. She suggests how to participate in life-cycle events, or how to decline without offending (too much). She addresses the problems of ideological conflict, of relatives feeling their more religious members think they're better than they are (especially if invitations to celebrations are declined), of how to spend Shabbat and Passover *seders* together.

Interposed throughout the discussions and practical advice are Jaffe's personal notes, which reveal the struggles she and her family went through in trying to better come to terms with her "conversion."

*How To Be Perfect Stranger:*  
*The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook*

Edited by Stuart M. Mollins and Arthur J. Mogido

Skylight Poets & Publishing

Softcover, 2006

Remember Robert Heinlein's sci-fi classic, *Stranger in a Strange Land*? Well that's how many of us feel when we step into a church or mosque (and certainly, that must be how our non-Jewish friends feel when they join us at synagogue for a family *simcha*). What do you wear? Where do you sit? How do you act respectfully at the service?

This book eases the unease that accompanies us when we are invited into the unfamiliar religious world of our friend or neighbour. Whether we're going to a Christian funeral, attending a Jehovah Witness's Kingdom Hall service or a Presbyterian birth ceremony, the editors from Jewish Lights Publishing have outfitted readers with all the do's and don'ts of interfaith religious etiquette and practice. They've collected information from religious branches in both the United States and Canada, with input from clergy and religious experts, including Native American and First Nations faith leaders.



## The Book Beat

Kinneret Globerman

The result is this handy primer. It is not a theological exposition on all religions. It's more of a guidebook on how to act at a service, what to bring to a wedding ceremony, how to pay one's respects, that kind of thing. It tells you what's expected of you at various ritual observances and holiday celebrations, what is customary apparel, what gifts are typically given and what the history and beliefs, basic dogma and ideology of the religion are.

Even if you don't intend to go to a Sikh marriage or a Church of Christ initiation ceremony, aren't you interested in knowing what to do for your Hindu co-worker when one of his family members dies? You'll find all that in here, including a glossary of common religious terms and names, a pictorial chart that explains popular religious symbols, a calendar of multi-denominational holidays and festivals, and how to address leaders and clergy of various faiths.

*How To Be A Perfect Stranger* won the Benjamin Franklin Best Reference Book of the Year Award, and that's totally understandable. Our North American society is pluralistic and diverse and really requires that we know more about the people we live with so that we better understand them. And from that understanding we learn to be more tolerant and accepting of the diversity that surrounds us. This book provides a good beginning.

### At the Greenberg Families Library:

On Sunday, March 19 at 2:00 pm, the Ottawa Jewish Film Society presents a double feature.

*My Grandparents Had a Hotel* is an affectionate 26-minute film on those Jewish family resorts of the 1930s and 1940s. Built in response to restrictive policies that excluded Jews from established resorts, The Monteith Inn, in the "Canadian Catskills," provided their clientele with the opportunity to vacation in the countryside.

*Kosher Valley*, 58 minutes long, is a modern parable depicting the unlikely business relationship between Colorado ranchers and a rabbi from Baltimore. Bonded by beef, the ranchers and the rabbi hire a slick Mormon business manager to help launch a kosher slaughterhouse and co-op. What appears to be a match made in heaven soon develops major problems. Open to all SJCC and Library members with presentation of a card.

The Book Discussions series continues with *Book Beat* columnist and freelance writer, Kinneret Globerman.

On Wednesday evening, March 22, at 7:30 pm, she facilitates a discussion on Philip Roth's latest book, *The Plot Against America*.

Framed in Roth's own family history, the author explores a wholly imagined thesis: that Charles A. Lindbergh – considered by reliable sources to be "a rabid isolationist, Nazi sympathizer and a crypto-fascist" – defeats FDR in 1940 and becomes President of the United States of America.

Free for all members with presentation of membership card; \$5 for non-members.

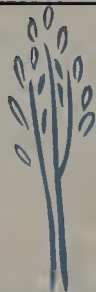
For information on this, or any, Library program, please call the Library (798-9818, ext. 245).



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Joseph and Devora Caytak on Sara's engagement and upcoming marriage to Dov Small by Marjone and Michael Feldman.

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Phyllis Leith on the birth of her grandson Zachary by Mottie and Claire Feldman.

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Lawrence Silber on receiving the Ben-Karp SJCC Volunteer Service Award by Fran, Ivan and Carly Kesler  
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Mary Potechin by Joy, Enc and Becky Weisbloom; and by the Ottawa B'nai Brith Bowling League.  
Jack Barrett by Eric Weisbloom and family; and by the Ottawa B'nai Brith Bowling League.

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Martha Saskin by Sandi and Eddy Cook.  
Birthday wishes to:  
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### NATHAN AND REBA DIENER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Doris Serot by Reba Diener.

### DOLANSKY FAMILY FUND

In memory of:  
Martha Saskin by Cynthia Hill, by the Levitz family; by Hana and Gerry Cammy; by Justin Cammy and Rachel Rubenstein and Jeremy and Renee Cammy; by Libby

Continued on page 32



## FOUNDATION DONATIONS

and Stan Katz; by Barb and Len Farber; by Bert, Kathryn and John Palmer; by Ivan, Fran and Carly Kesler; by the Dentistry Canada Fund; by Enid and Jeff Gould and family; by George and Elaine Citrome; by Mitchell Bellman and Nicola Hamer; by Jim and Jane Brookfield; by Rona Shaffran-Tannenbaum and Brian Tannenbaum; by Eileen Cohen; and by Mera and Bill Goldstein and family.

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Andy Signner by Lois, Jeff, Hailey, Allan and Michael Eisen.

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#### Mazal Tov to:

Edna and Seymour Eisenberg on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Chelsea by Edith Landen.

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Audrey Freiman by Cynthia Engel and family.

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The Schneiderman family on the birth of a grand-

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### HANSER FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Titile Hanser, a dear Bubba by Isabel and Norman Lesh and family.

Jack Hanser, a dear uncle by Isabel and Norman Lesh and family.

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Lawrence Silber on receiving the Ben-Karp Soloway JCC Volunteer Award by the Hill family.

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#### Anniversary wishes to:

Barry and Marcia Cantor on their 25th wedding anniversary by Joy and David Kardish and family.

#### Birthday wishes to:

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#### In memory of:

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Dorothy and Maurie Karp and birthday wishes to Dorothy by Norman and Isabel Lesh.

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#### In memory of:

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### HARRY AND ZENA LEIKIN ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In memory of:

Faye Friedman by Fran, Ivan and Carly Kesler.

Mary Potechin by Barbara, Len, Steven and Michael Farber.

Continued on page 33

## Dolanskys make a lasting contribution to the community

Donna and Bernie Dolansky had been thinking about opening up a fund with the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation (OJCF) for a long time, but had not done so, until now.

This couple's longstanding commitment to community is well known. Both have been staunch and active supporters of Ottawa's Jewish Community since they moved here in 1973.

Bernie was President of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa (formerly known as the Vaad Ha'Ir), co-chaired the Campus Development Committee and has been involved in extensive strategic planning and reorganization with the Soloway Jewish Community Centre and numerous other organizations. Bernie is a recipient of the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award.

Donna has held several positions within the Agudath Israel Synagogue Executive and Board, chaired the Women's Division for the Annual Campaign (UJA), served two terms as vice-chair of the Annual Campaign, chaired the local Partnership 2000, the Coast-to-Coast Canadian P2K Committee, and National UJAFC Women's Leadership Conference held in Ottawa in May 2004.

Both also served on many community committees including the strategic planning



Donna and Bernie Dolansky

task force, the Federation's Annual Campaign Committee, and the former Board of Jewish Education, to name but a few.

When asked about opening up an OJCF fund at this time, Donna says, "We have been contributing to funds since the Foundation's inception. By opening the Dolansky Family Fund we wanted to make some sort of lasting contribution to the community. Basically, OJCF is the future of our community. There always has to be some source of ongoing revenue."

To find out more about setting up an endowment fund through OJCF, contact us today at 798-4696 ext. 252. If you wish to make a donation to the Dolansky Family Fund, please call 798-4696 ext. 274 or visit us online at [www.jewishottawa.com/ojcf](http://www.jewishottawa.com/ojcf). It's a gift that keeps on giving!



# FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin – March 13, 2006 – Page 33

## Birthday wishes to:

Stan Katz by Fran, Ivan and Carly Kesler; and by Morton and Sally Taller.  
R'luah Sh'lemah to:  
Phyllis Leikin by Fran, Ivan and Carly Kesler.

## GEDRGE LESH MIRACLE FUND

Best wishes to:  
Michael Levitan and Jana Cleiman by George Lesh.

## NDRMAN AND ISABEL LESH ENDOWMENT FUND

R'luah Sh'lemah to:  
Bruce Bercovitch by Isabel and Norman Lesh.

## SANDRA AND JACIE LEVINSON

ENDOWMENT FUND  
In memory of:  
Audrey Freiman by Sandra and Jacie Levinson.  
Mary Potechin by Sandra and Jacie Levinson.

## Birthday wishes to:

Bernie Shinder on his special birthday by Sandra and Jacie Levinson.

## RUTH AND RON LEVITAN ENDDWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Elsie Baker by Ruth and Ron Levitan.

## SALLY AND ELLIOTT LEVITAN ENDDWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Elsie Baker by Sally and Elliott Levitan.  
Mary Potechin by Sally and Elliott Levitan.  
Good health to:  
Polly Moran by Sally and Elliott Levitan.

## ERNEST AND IDA LEVITZ MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal! Tov to:  
Doreen Levitz on her success by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz.

## JOSEPH AND EVELYN LIEFF ENDDWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:  
Tani Sanders on her special birthday by Francie Greenspoon and Norman Lieff.

Minnie Greenberg on her special birthday by Evelyn and Joseph Lieff.

Sharon Weinstein on her special birthday by Evelyn and Joseph Lieff.

John Greenberg on his 80th birthday by Evelyn and Joseph Lieff.

## Mazal! Tov to:

Nina and Mark Dover on their granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah by Evelyn and Joseph Lieff.

Marie and Howie Levine on their son Aaron's Bar Mitzvah by Francie Greenspoon and Norman Lieff.

## In memory of:

Audrey Freiman by Evelyn and Joseph Lieff.  
Adele Gordon by Evelyn and Joseph Lieff.

Nathan Smith by Francie Greenspoon and Norman Lieff.

## R'luah Sh'lemah to:

Dora Morrow by Evelyn and Joseph Lieff.

Henry Bloom by Evelyn and Joseph Lieff.

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### MEMORIAL FUND

#### In memory of:

Herman Halpern by Margo and Judah Silverman and family.

#### Mazal! Tov to:

Ernie and Ray Goldstein on the birth of their grandchildren by Margo and Judah Silverman.

## JACK AND DORA LITWACK MEMORIAL FUND

### R'luah Sh'lemah to:

Issie Litwack by Betty and Sid Finkelman.

## DAVID LOES FAMILY FUND

### In memory of:

Audrey Freiman by David and Adele Loeb.

## LEN MADER FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

### In memory of:

Abe Prizant by Robin, Osniel and David Mader.  
Audrey Freiman by Robin, Daniel and David Mader.

## SAMUEL AND LEEMA MAGIDSON

### ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In memory of:

Sylvia Harris by Roslyn and Arnie Kimmel.

## JACOB MALOMET MEMORIAL FUND

### Anniversary wishes to:

Vita and Stan Winthrop by Diana and Alvin Malomet.

### Good health to:

Henry Bloom by Diana and Alvin Malomet.

## ANNE (BLAIR) AND HYMAN MAYBERGER

### ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In memory of:

Abe Prizant by Cindy and Charles Schachnow and family.

#### Mazal! Tov to:

Phyllis Leikin on the birth of her grandson by Anne Blair.

## MORTY MAYBERGER UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

### GOLF TOURNAMENT FUND

#### Congratulations to:

Siu and Connie Schwartz on the birth of their son by Morris and Shelley Schachnow.

## MORRIS MOLOT MEMORIAL FUND

### In memory of:

Audrey Freiman by David and Lotte Molot.

Mary Potechin by Oavid and Lotte Molot.

## OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND

### In memory of:

Mary Potechin by the Board and Staff of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

Issie Werk by the Board and Staff of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

Martha Saskin by the Executive, Board and Staff of

the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation; and by the Board and Staff of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa

### Birthday wishes to:

Rose Taylor by the Executive, Board and Staff of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation.

## OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

### ENDOWMENT FUND

#### Mazal! Tov to:

Marie and Howard Levine on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Aaron by Richard and Michelle Sachs.

## NANCY AND LARRY PLEET ENDDWMENT FUND

### In memory of:

Lillian Kimmel by Janice Pleet.

## NDRMAN AND EVELYN POTECHIN

### ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In memory of:

Mary Potechin by Libby and Stan Katz; by Helen Bloom; by Esther Binder; by Judy Wolfe; by Ann and David Shlesinger; by Betty and Sid Finkelman; by Irvin Hoffman; and by Rena Shatfran-Tannenbaum and Brian Tannenbaum.

## DR. HARRY AND ROSE-ANNE PRIZANT FAMILY FUND

### In memory of:

Abe Prizant by Rhoda, Jeff, Howard and Sara Miller; by Riva and David, Jacob and Esther, Jonathan and Aviva and Josh and Samantha; and by Sol and Zelaine Shinder.

## GERALD AND MARY-BELLE PULVERMACHER

### FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

#### Mazal! Tov to:

Barbara and David Slipacoff on the birth of their granddaughter Hannah by Mary-Belle and Gerry Pulvermacher.

## MOE AND SARAH RESNICK ENDDWMENT FUND

### In memory of:

Mary Potechin by Sam and Roberta Goldmaker; by Marj and Lou Goldmaker and family; and by Penny, Gordie, Zac and Steven Resnick.

## GOLDIE AND ALBERT RIVERS ENDDWMENT FUND

### In memory of:

Mary Potechin by Goldie Rivers

## SAMUEL AND RUTH ROTHMAN MEMORIAL FUND

### Speedy recovery to:

Geety Friedman by Connie and Sheldon Taylor and family.

### Congratulations to:

Alex Polowin on receiving his special honour by Connie and Sheldon Taylor.

Darlene Mann on the birth of her grandson Dylan James by Sue and Steve Rothman and family.

### In memory of:

Mary Potechin by Sue and Steve Rothman.  
Bennie Pelot by Sue and Steve Rothman and family.

## SHELLEY AND SID ROTHMAN FAMILY FUND

### In memory of:

Mary Potechin by Shelley and Sid Rothman.  
Jack Barrett by Shelley and Sid Rothman.

## ANNE AND IRVING SABRAN MEMORIAL FUND

### In memory of:

Herman Halpern by Rena and Max Cohen.

## RUTH SADAVA MEMORIAL FUND

### In memory of:

Jack Barrett by William Bloom.

## HELEN AND ROY SAIPER ENDDWMENT FUND

### In memory of:

Audrey Freiman by Helen Saiper; by the Bertha Stonemsky Chapter of Hadassah; and by Marcia Saiper and Ted Miller.

## RICKI AND MARTIN SASLOVE FAMILY FUND

### In memory of:

Nathan Smith by Ricki and Marty Saslove; and by Rhoda, Jeff, Howard and Sara Miller.

## AL AND BETTY SEGAL MEMORIAL FUND

### In memory of:

Herman Halpern by Martin and Shelley Goldenberg and family.

## ARNOLD SHINDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### Birthday wishes to:

Bernard Shinder on his special birthday by Sol and Zelaine Shinder; and by Ethel and David Malek.

## ISRAEL AND MAUREEN NEWTON SHINDER

### COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

#### In memory of:

Mary Potechin by Is Shinder.

#### Birthday wishes to:

Bernie Shinder on his special birthday by Is Shinder.

## SOL AND ZELAINE SHINDER ENDDWMENT FUND

### In memory of:

Herman Halpern by Sol and Zelaine Shinder.

## FAY AND JOSEPH SHULMAN ENDDWMENT FUND

### In memory of:

Monica Slein's mother by Nadine and Brian Mordfield and family.

Continued on page 34



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### BESSIE AND ABRAHAM SHUSTER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:  
Abe Prizant by Bruna Cooperman.

### LORNE AND LAURIE SHUSTERMAN FAMILY FUND

In memory of:  
Audrey Freiman by Lorne, Laurie, Zak and Ben Shusterman.  
Eleanor Potts by Lorne, Laurie, Zak and Ben Shusterman.  
Andrea Bronfman by Lorne, Laurie, Zak and Ben Shusterman.  
Lillian Corbett by Lorne, Laurie, Zak and Ben Shusterman.

### JACK AND SARAH SILVERSTEIN FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Mary Potechin by Sarah, Jack and David Silverstein.  
Martha Saskin by the Silverstein family.

### LOUIS AND STELLA SLACK MEMORIAL FUND

Continued good health to:  
Ricki Baker by Myra and Lester Aronson and family.  
Birthday wishes to:  
Barry Baker on his 65th birthday by Myra, Lester, Jennifer, Donna, Gregory and Jordan Aronson.

### SAM AND SUE SLACK ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Herman Halpern by David and Sharon Appolva.  
Birthday wishes to:  
Noreen Slack on her special birthday by David, Sharon, Ryan, Jaye and Brody Appolva.  
Seymour Mender by Sue Slack.

### LAWRENCE AND MONA SLOVER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Mona Slover by Rose and Chick Taylor.

### JACK AND LINDA SMITH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Nathan Smith by Leslie, Maureen, Aaron and Mischa Smith; by Barb and Len Farber; and by Clair and Julius Krantzberg.

### PATRICIA SMOLKIN MEMORIAL FUND

Birthday wishes to:  
Howard Smolkin on his 60th birthday by Harriet and Stanley Pinkus and family.

### LAURA AND GORDON SPERGLER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Percy Lindson by Laura and Gordon Sperglér; and by Mark, Marla, Andrew, Samantha and Evan Sperglér.

### Birthday wishes to:

Myer Goldin by Mark, Marla, Andrew, Samantha and Evan Sperglér.

### BOBBY STEINBERG MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:  
Morris Triansky by Lee Steinberg.  
Nathan Wasserman by Sharon and Gary Steinberg.

### DORIS AND RICHARD STERN FAMILY FUND

In memory of:  
Fran Savelson's brother by Doris and Richard Stern.

### MAX AND PHYLLIS STERNTHAL FAMILY FUND

Speedy recovery to:  
Hilbert Lissens by Phyllis and Max Sternthal.

### FREDA AND PHIL SWEDKO MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:  
Audrey Freiman by Beverly and Irving Swedko.  
Frieda Lauterman by Claire and Irving Swedko.  
Good luck and continued good health to:  
Norman Swedko by Claire and Irving Swedko.

### JAY B. TALLER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:  
Mary Potechin by Morton and Sally Teller.  
Herman Halpern by Morton and Sally Teller.

### CHARLES AND ROSE TAYLOR ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to:  
Phyllis Leith on the birth of her grandson Zachary Joshua by Rose and Chick Taylor.  
Paul Bregman and Suzanne Sassoon on their marriage by Rose and Chick Taylor.  
In memory of:  
Herman Halpern by Rose and Chick Taylor.

### JEFFREY TAYLOR AND SUSIE WEISMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:  
Susie Weisman by Rose and Chick Taylor.

### TENNENHOUSE FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazel Tov to:  
Barry and Zahava Farber on Asher receiving the Grossman-Klein Teen Leadership Award by Evan, Carol and Miriam Diamond.  
George and Andree Acel on the birth of their grandson Samuel Ari by Evan, Carol and Miriam Diamond.  
In memory of:  
Mary Potechin by Evan, Carol and Miriam Diamond.

### PEARL AND EDWARD TORONTOW ENDOWMENT FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:  
Eddy Torontow, a dear husband by Pearl Torontow.

### GILAD, ARNIE AND RON VERED ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Lillian Kimmel by Liz and Arnie Vered.  
Audrey Freiman by Liz and Arnie Vered.  
Abe Prizant by Liz and Arnie Vered.  
Martha Saskin by Liz and Arnie Vered.  
Syd Reider by Liz and Arnie Vered.

### STEPHEN AND GAIL VICTOR ENDOWMENT FUND

In appreciation to:  
Gail and Stephen Victor by Sandy Marchello.  
In memory of:  
Nat Wasserman by Sandy Marchello.  
Minnie Gershon by Sandy Marchello.

### RUTH AND JOSEPH VINER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Herman Halpern by Joe and Ruth Viner; and by Gary and Deborah Viner and family.  
Audrey Freiman by Joe and Ruth Viner.  
Mary Potechin by Joe and Ruth Viner.

### SONIA AND ARTHUR VINER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:  
Sylvia Saslove by John and Gladys Greenberg.  
Herman Halpern by John and Gladys Greenberg.  
Audrey Freiman by John and Gladys Greenberg.

### HAZE WAINBERG FAMILY FUND

Speedy recovery to:  
Hy Reinish by Haze Wainberg.  
Debi and David Shore's daughter Suzi by Haze Wainberg.

### RICHARD AND RHONDA WASERMAN FAMILY FUND

In memory of:  
Nathan Wasserman by Richard and Michelle Sachs.

### MIRIAM AND LOUIS WEINER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Mary Potechin by Miriam and Louis Weiner and Carol and Larry Gratus.

### MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:  
Audrey Freiman by Mille Weinstein.  
Hermie Halpern by Mille Weinstein.  
Percy Lindson by Mille Weinstein.

### IRVING AND DIANE WEXLER FAMILY FUND

Speedy recovery to:  
Geety Freedman by Diane Wexler.

### SAM AND HELENE ZARET MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:  
Mary Potechin by Debi, Neil, Josh and Adam Zaret.

### ZIPES KARANOFKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Yasher Koach to:  
Helen Zipes on chanting the Hattorah by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz; by Eric Elkin and Mollie Hirsch; and by Art and Marcie Saper and family.  
Mazel Tov to:  
Arlene and Seymour Isenberg on the birth of their grandson by Rick and Helen Zipes.  
Barbara and David Slipacoff on the birth of their granddaughter Hannah by Rick and Helen Zipes.  
Valerie and Gaby Terkel on the birth of their grandson Oliver by Rick and Helen Zipes.  
R'luah Sh'lemeh to:  
Ricki Baker by Rick and Helen Zipes.  
Andy Siggner by Rick and Helen Zipes.  
In memory of:  
Mary Potechin by Rick and Helen Zipes.

Contributions may be made online at [www.jewishottawa.com/ojcf](http://www.jewishottawa.com/ojcf) or by phoning Bev Glube at 798-4696 extension 274, Monday to Friday.

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## New!

A complete listing of the endowment funds established with the OJCF can be viewed online at [www.jewishottawa.org](http://www.jewishottawa.org). Plus, a link has been added to the online donation form, which allows you to search through our endowment listing and return back to the donation form to complete your transaction.

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## My place in the universe

I have diligently taught myself how to channel surf, can log on to my e-mail with ease and even use MSN to chat with my children. There are moments, however, when I feel I have dropped into an alien universe. I am really a transplant from the 1950s.

My children are amazed when I explain how I used to chew tar I got from road crews when I couldn't buy gum and filched slivers of ice from the back of the ice truck when I did not have money for popsicles.

"What's an ice truck?" they ask.

When I explain that the ice truck delivered blocks of ice to people who used them in their ice boxes, I just see more puzzlement. Ice boxes, I tell them, had not yet been replaced by refrigerators.

"What?"

I then tell them how my brother and I had fun chasing the milk wagon.

"What's a milk wagon?"

"Oh, they used to deliver milk to your house in bottles in

wagon-trucks pulled by horses."

"Huh?"

When they were growing up, I took my children skating at Barbara Ann Scott Arena. We had a great time skating in circles to piped-in music on an indoor rink. The big problem was to figure out whether it was time to go clockwise or counter-clockwise.

When I was six, I laced up my used skates and, by myself, walked two blocks to the natural outdoor ice rink behind the large Catholic cathedral, crossing a major street with street-car tracks. At the rink, I just hung on to the boards for dear life. The priests in training, all fabulous skaters, whizzed around me playing shinny. I would stay there until I couldn't feel my toes and then walk home. This is how I learned to skate – and how to walk in traffic.

My wife and I were nervous about letting our teenagers use public transport.

When I was four, my parents pushed me out the door and told me to go around the block until I found someone to play

## The Amazing Race: Shul Edition

It's been years since Paul visited synagogue. He has no shame admitting he has always found it quite boring. Byron attends from time to time to see if we're allowed back after this column started to get published.

There is a whole ritual associated with preparing for synagogue, especially when you're a kid.

The shul experience started Friday night. The parents would knock on our door and tell us to take our suit out of the closet and put aside anything we needed mom to iron.

We would be told that we needed to get up early if we didn't want to be left behind. Was that a threat?

Saturday morning rolled around and thus the mayhem of The Amazing Race: Shul Edition began.

Who is taking the shower first? This was the closest to professional sports we ever got – the starting lineup for showers. If you're first, you're stressing as everyone else needs to follow. If you're last, you make them wait for you.

The suit was a disaster. Pants are being thrown on as if they were jogging pants and the suit jacket as if it was a cheap rain poncho you get when it rains on Canada Day.

To make matters worse was the winter jacket over the suit which looked incredibly dumb. With the dress shoes in the classic Loblaws bag and wearing big arctic boots, we looked like Jewish Eskimos.

Next is packing into the car. Packing up Noah's Ark took less time.

Who drives around early Saturday morning wearing suits? We looked like The Sopranos.

The synagogue security made the place look more like a Jewish Alcatraz. The real reason for the guards was to ensure the kids didn't try to escape the services!

Once inside, people put on their tallis. The tallis brings our people the closest to being a super hero we have ever felt. The spoiled kids had designer yarmulkes. Some had Spiderman yarmulkes. Since when is Spiderman Jewish?

Mingling in the foyer is a must. You see all the people you roasted while at Loblaws earlier that week, put on that phony smile and say "Shabbat Shalom!" What people are really thinking is, "Her tuchus got huge," or "I can't believe they gave my son such a cheap Bar Mitzvah gift."

The main event is The Chapel. As you walk in, you see the usher. He thinks he's a big shot, the synagogue bouncer. Does he want to check my ID? What do we have for Jewish ID?

There is no way he's seeing that kind of ID.

Paul always loved going up to the usher and singing loudly "YAA!!!" (the title of the classic Usher/Lil' Jon hip-hop song). People got very confused.

We went to our season ticket seats. The people in front felt like they had courtside seats. They were 'bema-side.' Sitting in



Paul Telner



Byron Pascoe

Have  
a  
Knish

the middle you could pass out and no one would notice.

At the high holidays at Agudath Israel, you'd have the sorry schmucks sitting on the stage way in the back – the nosebleed seats. But aren't Jews all equal? If you are stuck in the back on one of those cheap bridge chairs that they also use to lift people in the air at Bar Mitzvah parties, get out of that rough area and move up to a better location. It's like the bad neighbourhood of synagogue. Watch your wallet and tallis!

Once you sit down, people talk about what page we're on. But that's not the only game in town. Picking up girls at synagogue is possible, but you have to play it right. Make eye contact and signal for her to join you for a romantic walk to Junior Congregation.

Junior Congregation was the attempt to make services more exciting for young people. It was the Nickelodeon version of synagogue, with the highlight being a plate of cookies and apple juice.

This was followed by playing bottle caps or messing around in the basement. Paul even snuck onto the Chapel stage while services were being conducted and hid behind the curtains. It was pitch black with a dusty old piano where they played songs like "Hamentashen Hamentashen!" This would really annoy and freak people out. Then they'd peak through the curtains and say, "This is Moses! If you drive a Toyota Camry, and your license plate is V2Y 7M6, your car is being towed away! Shabbat Sha-towed!"

Returning home meant hanging up the suit. For the few times when the suit was hung up instead of thrown on the floor, it somehow was always done wrong. If there was a Jewish-themed episode of Jerry Springer, our families might be on the segment of "Suit Yourself. This is How I Hang Up My Suit!"

This all proves that to keep kids engaged you need to entertain them while enlightening them during the service. Otherwise they'll be up to other things during the service and write about it years later in the *Bulletin*.

When we have kids, we'll take them to synagogue, and be right behind them sneaking backstage during services, playing the piano and ticking people off. Have a knish!



Humour me,  
please

Rubin Friedman

with. The only rule was I couldn't cross any streets. I couldn't speak English the first day they did this. I soon learned.

When I was seven, I started to go to "Jewish school" or cheder. Twice a week in the evening and on Sunday morning, I would walk to take the subway by myself from Wellesley to Dundas, transfer to the street car and ride it for 10 minutes to Beverley, then get off and walk another two blocks to the school. Later, I would make the return trip. This is how I learned how to keep a low profile in public places when I was by myself.

I learned about entrepreneurship and business relations by gathering pop bottles and turning them in for two cents each or by going caroling in winter with my non-Jewish friends and then arguing about how to divvy up the donations. They felt that I should get the least because I was the youngest. I felt I should get the most because my voice was best. We compromised. I kept my teeth and received the least.

How do I explain my excitement when, after listening to Superman on the radio for years, I finally got to see him on television in living black and white?

In my rough downtown district, winos, weirdos and addicts were literally strewn on the street. Today, as I look out my window, I have to wait 15 minutes before I see anything moving except a tree branch.

Where my children had almost unimaginable choice in amusements and entertainments, I had to make do with pretending that the old table in the living room was a pirate ship.

As I flip through an old photo album, I close my eyes and see my brother taking a picture of me on his new bike. My son passes me and asks "What's up with you?"

"I'm just getting down with this," I say, proving once again the strangeness of my place in the universe.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON March 13 to March 26, 2006

For a detailed listing  
visit [www.jewishottawa.org](http://www.jewishottawa.org)



**MONDAY, MARCH 13**  
SJCC, March Break Camp,  
8:30 am. Runs until March 17.  
JETSETTERS, Purim Party,  
6:00 pm.  
OTC, A Big Fat Greek Purim,  
Embassy West Hotel, 1400 Carling  
Avenue (at Kirkwood), 6:00 pm.



### CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Mar 17 ♦ 5:53 pm  
Mar 24 ♦ 6:03 pm  
Mar 31 ♦ 6:12 pm

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14**  
Cheder Rambam School,  
Annual Purim Party, 25  
Esquimaux Avenue, 9:15 am.  
Kollei of Ottawa, Annual  
Purim Party, 1762 Carling Avenue,  
6:30 pm.  
Chabad of CentrepoinTE,  
Purim Seudah, 7:30 pm.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 19**  
Ottawa Jewish Film Society,  
"My Grandparents Had a Hotel"  
and "Kosher Valley," 2:00 pm.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 21**  
Maica Pass Library Book  
Discussion Group, "Saturday"  
by Ian McEwan, Reviewer:  
Sophie Kohn Kaminsky, Agudath  
Israel Congregation, 1400 Coidrey  
Avenue, 7:30 pm.  
Jewish Family Services  
presents a four session discus-  
sion of matters related to dealing  
with the elderly, Beth Shalom  
West, 15 Chartwell Avenue,  
7:30 pm.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22**  
Mother and Daughter Israeli  
Dancing (Women Only), Congre-  
gation Machzikei Hadas, 2310  
Virginia Drive, 7:00 pm.  
Greenberg Families Library  
Book Discussion Group, "The  
Plot Against America" by Phillip  
Roth, 7:30 pm.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25**  
JSA-Hillel Ottawa Semi-Formal  
Gala, Beth Shalom Synagogue, 151  
Chapel Street, 7:30 pm. Tickets:  
rsvp@jsaottawa.com. Info: 236-2345.  
Sintonia Ottawa Orchestra  
celebrates Bela Bartok's 125  
birthday concert of all Hungarian  
composers, Janos Csaba, con-  
ductor, St Andrew's Presbyterian  
Church, 82 Kent (corner Wellin-  
gton), 8:00 pm. Info: 827-1703.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26**  
NCSY, Jewish Teen Expres-  
sion, 1:00 pm.  
SJCC Teen Department, Bead-  
ing/Jewellery Workshop, 2:30 pm.

## COMING SOON

**MONDAY, MARCH 27**  
Jewish Unity Live, with a cappella group Kol Zimra  
and guest speaker Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis,  
Canadian Museum of Nature.  
Info: JET (798-9818 ext. 247).



**THURSDAY, MARCH 30**  
Centre for Jewish Studies and the Center on Value & Ethics, Carleton University,  
presents Shalom Lappin, department of philosophy, King's College, London,  
"The Rise of a New Anti-Semitism in Contemporary Britain," Arts Faculty Lounge (2017 OT),  
Carleton University, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Info: <http://www.carleton.ca/cove>.  
The College of Jewish Studies, "No religion is an island (part 1): Rabbi Heschel's philosophy  
of Jewish-Christian relations," with Dr. Harold Kasimow and Dr. John Merkle,  
Saint-Paul University, 223 Main Street, 7:00 pm.  
Ottawa Chapter, Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science,  
presents "Hope for Treatments of Conditions such as MS," with Israeli and Canadian experts.  
Agudath Israel, 1400 Coidrey Avenue, 7:30 pm. Free admission. info: 236-3391.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31**  
The College of Jewish Studies, "No religion is an island (part 2): Vatican II's *Nostra Aetate*  
and Beyond: A new era in Christian Jewish Relations," with Dr. Harold Kasimow  
and Dr. John Merkle, Saint-Paul University, 223 Main Street, 9:00 am.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Brenda Schaler, calendar coordinator at 798-9818 ext. 265. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public. You may fax to 798-9839 or email to bschaler@jccottawa.com.

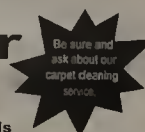


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## Condolences

Condolences are extended to the families of:

Elsie Baker	Eileen Schacter, Toronto
Dr. Eugene Finkel,	(mother of Wesley Schacter)
Stamford, Connecticut	Dora Schaenfield
(father of Nancy Ross)	Dr. Harry Schwartz
Anne Lampert	Rhodes Shandler,
Helen Mender	formerly Henriette Bollegraaf,
Annie Polsky, Montreal	Leeuwarden, The Netherlands
(mother of Len Polsky)	(mother of Elly Bollegraaf)
Abe Prizant, Montreal	Nathan Smith
(father of Harry Prizant)	Anne Ster
Martha Saskin, Toronto	May their memory
(mother of Bernard Dolansky)	be a blessing always..

The CONDOLENCE COLUMN is offered as a public service  
to the community. There is no charge.

For a listing in this column, please call Bev Glube,  
798-4696, ext. 274. Voice mail is available.

## BULLETIN DEADLINES

MARCH 22 FOR APRIL 10  
APRIL 5 FOR APRIL 24  
APRIL 18 FOR MAY 8  
MAY 3 FOR MAY 22  
MAY 31 FOR JUNE 19  
JULY 5 FOR JULY 24  
AUGUST 2 FOR AUGUST 21  
AUGUST 16 FOR SEPTEMBER 11\*  
\* Community-wide Issue (subject to change)